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Wilmington Journal.

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Some provision is deemed requisite to correct the evils arising from the long continued absence of commissioned officers. Where it is without sufficient cause it would seem but just that the commission should be thereby vacated. Where it results from capture by the enemy, which, under their barbarous refusal to exchange prisoners of war, may be regarded as absence for an indefinite time, there is a necessity to supply their places in their respective commands. This might be done by temporary appointments, to endure only until the return of the officers regularly commissioned.— Where it results from permanent disability incurred in the line of their duty, it would be proper to retire them and fill the vacancies according to established mode. I would also suggest the organization of an invalid corps, and that the retired officers be transferred to it. Such a corps, it is thought, could be made useful in various employments for which efficient officers and troops are now detailed.

An organization of the general staff of the army would be highly conducive to the efficiency of that most important branch of the service. The plan adopted for the military establishment furnishes a model for the staff of the provisional army if it be deemed advisable to retain the distinction, but I recommend to your consideration the propriety of abolishing it, and providing for the organization of the several staff corps in such number and with such rank as will meet all the wants of the service. To secure the requisite ability for the more important positions it will be necessary to provide for officers of higher rank than is now authorized for these corps. To give to the officers the proper relation and co intelligence in their respective corps, and to preserve to the chief of each the influence and control over his subordinates there should be no gradation on the basis of the rank of the general with whom they might be serving by appointment. To the general staff of a general it would seem proper to give a grade corresponding with his rank, and the number might be fixed to correspond with his command. To avoid the consequence of discharge upon a change of duty, the variable portion of the personal staff might be taken from the line of the army and allowed to retain their line commissions.

The disordered condition of the currency to which I have already alluded, has imposed on the Government a system of supplying the wants of the army, which is so unequal in its operation, vexatious to the producer, injurious to the industrial interest, and productive of such discontent among the people as only to be justified by the existence of an absolute necessity. The report of the Secretary on this point, establishes conclusively, that the necessity which has forced the bureau of supply, to provide for the army by impressment, has resulted from the impossibility of purchase by contract or in the open market, except at such rapidly increased rates as would have rendered the appropriations inadequate to the wants of the army. Indeed, it is believed that the temptation to hoard supplies for the higher prices which could be anticipated with certainty, has been checked mainly by the fear of the operation of the impressment law; and that commodities have been offered in the markets, principally to escape impressment, and obtain higher rates than those fixed by appraisement. The complaints against this vicious system have been well founded, but the true cause of the evil has been misapprehended. The remedy is to be found, not in a change of the impressment law, but in the restoration of the currency to such a basis as will enable the department to purchase necessary supplies in the open market, and thus render impressment a rare and exceptional process.

The same remedy will effect the result universally desired of an augmentation of the pay of the army. The proposals made at your previous session, to increase the pay of the soldier by an additional amount of Treasury notes, would have conferred little benefit on him, but a radical reform of the currency will restore the pay to a value approximating that which it originally had, and materially improve his condition.

The reports from the ordnance and mining bureaux are very gratifying, and the extension of our means of supply of arms and munitions of war from our home resources, has been such as to ensure our ability soon to become mainly, if not entirely, independent of supplies from foreign countries. The establishments for the casting of guns and projectiles, for the manufacture of small arms and of gunpowder, for the supply of nitre from artificial nitre beds, and mining operations generally, have been so distributed through the country as to place our resources beyond the reach of partial disasters.

The recommendations of the Secretary of War on other points are minutely detailed in this report, which is submitted to you, and extending, as they do, to almost every branch of the service, merit careful consideration.

EXCHANGE OF PRISONERS.

I regret to inform you that the enemy have returned to the barbarous policy with which they inaugurated this war, and that the exchange of prisoners has been for some time suspended. The correspondence of the Commissioners of Exchange is submitted to you by the Secretary of War, and it has already been published for the information of all now suffering useless imprisonment. The conduct of the authorities of the United States has been consistently perfidious on this subject. An agreement for exchange in the incipiency of the war had just been concluded when the fall of Fort Donelson reversed the previous state of things, and gave them an excess of prisoners. The agreement was immediately repudiated by them, and so remained till the fortune of war again placed us in possession of the larger number. A new cartel was then made, and under it, for many months, we restored to them many thousands of prisoners in excess of those whom they held for exchange, and encampments of the surplus paroled prisoners delivered up by us were established in the United States, where the men were able to receive the comforts and solace of constant communication with their homes and families. In July last the fortune of war again favored the enemy, and they were enabled to exchange for duty the men previously delivered to them, against those captured and paroled at Vicksburg and Port Hudson. The prisoners taken at Gettysburg, however, remained in their hands, and should have been at once returned to our lines on parole, to await exchange. Instead of executing a duty imposed by the plainest dictates of justice and good faith, pretexts were constantly sought for holding them in permanent captivity. General orders rapidly succeeded each other from the bureaux at Washington, placing new constructions on an agreement which had given rise to no dispute while we retained the advantage in the number of prisoners. With a disregard of honorable obligations, almost unexampled, the enemy did not hesitate, in addition to retaining the prisoners captured by them, to declare null the paroles given by the prisoners captured by us in the same series of engagements, and liberated on condition of not again serving until exchanged. They have since openly insisted on treating the paroles given by their own soldiers as invalid, and those of our soldiers, given under precisely similar circumstances, as binding. A succession of similar unjust pretensions has been set up in a correspondence tediously prolonged, and every device employed to cover the disregard of an obligation which, between belligerent nations, is only to be enforced by a sense of honor.

No further comment is needed on this subject, but it may be permitted to direct your special attention to the close of the correspondence submitted to you, from which you will perceive that the final proposal made by the enemy in settlement of all disputes under the cartel is, that we should liberate all prisoners held by us, without the offer to release from captivity any of those held by them.

In the meantime a systematic and concerted effort has been made to quiet the complaints in the U. States of those relatives and friends of the prisoners in our hands who are unable to understand why the cartel is not executed in their favor, by the groundless assertion that we are the parties who refuse compliance. Attempts are also made to shield themselves from the execration excited by their own odious treatment of our officers and soldiers now captive in their hands, by misstatements, such as that the prisoners held by us are deprived of food. To this last accusation the conclusive answer has been made, that, in accordance with our law and the general orders of the department, the rations of the prisoners are precisely the same, in quantity and quality, as those served out to our own gallant soldiers in the field, and which have been found sufficient to support them in their arduous campaign, while it is not pretended by the enemy that they treat prisoners by the same generous rule. By an indulgence, perhaps unprecedented, we have even allowed the prisoners in our hands to be supplied by their friends at home with comforts not enjoyed by the men who captured them in battle. In contrast to this treatment, the most revolting inhumanity has characterized the conduct of the United States towards prisoners held by them. One prominent fact, which admits no denial nor palliation, must suffice as a test. The officers of our army, natives of southern and semi-tropical climates, and unprepared for the cold of a northern winter, have been conveyed for imprisonment, during the rigors of the present season, to the most northern and exposed situation that could be selected by the enemy. There, beyond the reach of comforts, and often even of news from home and family, exposed to the piercing cold of the northern lakes, they are held by men who cannot be ignorant of, even if they do not design, the probable result. How many of our unfortunate friends and comrades, who have passed unscathed through numerous battles, will perish on Johnson's Island, under the cruel trial to which they are subjected, none but the Omniscient can foretell. That they will endure this barbarous treatment with the same stern fortitude that they have ever evinced in their country's service, we cannot doubt. But who can be found to believe the assertion that it is our refusal to execute the cartel, and not the malignity of the foe, which has caused the infliction of such intolerable cruelty on our own loved and honored defenders?

TRANS-MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT.

Regular and punctual communication with the Trans-Mississippi is so obstructed as to render difficult a compliance with much of the legislation vesting authority in the executive branch of the government. To supply vacancies in office; to exercise discretion on certain matters connected with the military organizations; to control the distribution of the funds collected from taxation or remitted from the Treasury; to carry on the operations of the Post Office Department, and other like duties, require under the constitution and existing laws, the action of the President and heads of departments. The necessities of the military service frequently forbid delay, and some legislation is required, providing for the exercise of temporary authority, until regular action can be had at the seat of government. I would suggest, especially in the Post Office Department, that an assistant be provided for the states beyond the Mississippi, with authority in the head of that department to vest in this assistant all such powers now exercised by the Postmaster Gen'l, as may be requisite for provisional control of the funds of the department in those States, and their application to the payment of mail contractors; for superintendence of the local post offices, and the contracts for carrying the mail; for the temporary employment of proper persons to fulfil the duties of postmasters and contractors in urgent cases, until appointments can be made, and for other like purposes.— Without some legislative provision on the subject, there is serious risk of the destruction of the mail service, by reason of the delays and hardships suffered by contractors under the present system, which requires constant reference to Richmond of their accounts, as well as of the returns of the local postmasters, before they can receive payment for services rendered. Like provision is also necessary in the Treasury Department; while, for military affairs, it would seem to be sufficient to authorize the President and Secretary of War to delegate to the commanding general so much of the discretionary powers vested in them by law, as the exigencies of the service shall require.

NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy gives in detail the operations of that Department since January last, embracing information of the disposition and employment of the vessels, officers and men, and the construction of vessels at Richmond, Wilmington, Charleston, Savannah, Mobile, Selma, and on the rivers Roanoke, Neuse, Pedee, Chattahoochee and Tombigbee; the accumulation of ship timber and supplies, and the manufacture of ordnance stores and equipments. The foundries and workshops have been greatly improved and their capacity to supply all demands for heavy ordnance for coast and harbor defences is only limited by our deficiency in the requisite skilled labor. The want of such labor and of seamen seriously affects the operations of the Department.

The skill, courage and activity of our cruisers at sea cannot be too highly commended. They have inflicted heavy losses on the enemy, without suffering a single disaster, and have seriously damaged the shipping interests of the United States, by compelling their foreign commerce to seek the protection of neutral flags.

Your attention is invited to the suggestions of the report on the subjects of supplying seamen for the service, and of the provisions of the law in relation to the volunteer navy.

POST OFFICE.

The Postmaster General reports the receipts of that Department for the fiscal year ending the 30th June last, to have been $3,337,853 01, and the expenditures for the same period $2,662,804 67. The statement thus exhibits an excess of receipts amounting to $675,048 44, instead of a deficiency of more than a million of dollars, as was the case in the preceding fiscal year. It is gratifying to perceive that the Department has thus been made self-sustaining in accordance with the express requirement of the Constitution that its expenses should be paid out of its own revenues after the 1st March, 1863.

The report gives a full and satisfactory account of the operations of the Post Office Department for the last year, and explains the measures adopted for giving more certainty and regularity to the service in the States beyond the Mississippi, and on which reliance is placed for obviating the difficulties heretofore encountered in that service.

The settlement of the accounts of the Department is greatly delayed by reason of the inability of the First Auditor to perform all the duties now imposed on him by law. The accounts of the Departments of State, of the Treasury, of the Navy and of Justice, are all supervised by that officer, and more than suffice to occupy his whole time. The necessity for a Third Auditor to examine and settle the accounts of a Department so extensive as that of the Post Office appears urgent, and his recommendation on that subject meets my concurrence.

CONDUCT OF ENEMY.

I cannot close this message without again adverting to the savage ferocity which still marks the conduct of the enemy in the prosecution of the war. After their repulse from the defences before Charleston, they first sought revenge by an abortive attempt to destroy the city with an incendiary composition thrown by improved artillery, from a distance of four miles. Failing in this, they changed their missiles but fortunately have thus far succeeded only in killing two women in the city. Their commanders, Butler, McNeil and Turchin, whose horrible barbarities have made their names widely notorious, and everywhere execrable, are still honored and cherished by the authorities at Washington.— The first named, after having been withdrawn from the scenes of his cruelties against women and prisoners of war, in reluctant concession to the demands of outraged humanity in Europe, has just been put in a new command at Norfolk, where helpless women and children are again placed at his mercy.

Nor has less unrelenting warfare been waged by these pretended friends of human rights and liberties against the unfortunate negroes. Wherever the enemy have been able to gain access they have forced into the ranks of their army every able-bodied man that they could seize; and have either left the aged, the women and the children to perish by starvation, or have gathered them in to camps where they have been wasted by a frightful mortality. Without clothing or shelter, often without food, incapable, without supervision, of taking the most ordinary precautions against disease, these helpless dependants, accustomed to have their wants supplied by the foresight of their masters, are being rapidly exterminated, wherever brought in contact with the invaders. By the northern man, on whose deep-rooted prejudices no kindly restraining influence is exercised, they are treated with aversion and neglect. There is little hazard in predicting that, in all localities where the enemy have gained a temporary foothold, the negroes who under our care increased six fold in number since their importation into the colonies of Great Britain, will have been reduced by mortality during the war to not more than one half their previous number.

Information on this subject is derived not only from our own observation and from the reports of the negroes who succeed in escaping from the enemy, but full confirmation is afforded by statements published in the northern journals by humane persons engaged in making appeals to the charitable for aid in preventing the ravages of disease, exposure and starvation among the negro women and children who are crowded into encampments.

The frontier of our country bears witness to the alacrity and efficiency with which the general orders of the enemy have been executed in the devastation of the farms, the destruction of the agricultural implements, the burning of the houses, and the plunder of everything moveable. Its whole aspect is a comment on the ethics of the general order issued by the United States on the 24th April, 1863, comprising "instructions for the government of armies of the United States in the field," and of which the following is an example:

"Military necessity admits of all direct destruction of life or limb of *armed* enemies, and of other persons whose destruction is incidentally *unavoidable* in the armed contests of the war: it allows of the capturing of every armed enemy and of every enemy of importance to the hostile government or of peculiar danger to the captor; it allows of all destruction of property and obstructions of the ways and channels of traffic, travel or communication, and all withholding of sustenance or means of life from the enemy; of the appropriation of whatever an enemy's country affords necessary for the subsistance and safety of the army; and of such deception as does not involve the breaking of good faith, either positively pledged regarding agreements entered into during the war, or supposed by the modern law of war to exist. Men who take up arms against one another in public war, do not cease on this account to be moral beings, responsible to one another and to God."

The striking contrast to these teaching and practices presented by our army when invading Pennsylvania illustrates the moral character of our people.— Though their forbearance may have been unmerited and unappreciated by the enemy, it was imposed by their own self respect which forbade their degenerating from Christian warriors into plundering ruffians, assailing the property, lives and honor of helpless non-combatants. If their conduct, when thus contrasted with the inhuman practices of our foe fail to command the respect and sympathy of civilized nations in our day, it cannot fail to be recognized by their less deceived posterity.

The hope last year entertained of an early termination of the war has not been realized. Could carnage have satisfied the appetite of our enemy for the destruction of human life, or grief have appeased their wanton desire to inflict human suffering, there has been bloodshed enough on both sides, and two lands have been sufficiently darkened by the weeds of morning to induce a disposition for peace.

If unanimity in a people could dispel delusion, it has been displayed too unmistakably not to have silenced the pretence that the Southern States were merely disturbed by a factious insurrection, and it must long since have been admitted that they were but exercising their reserved right to modify their own government in such manner as would best secure their own happiness. But these considerations have been powerless to allay the unchristain hate of those, who long accustomed to draw large profits from a union with us, cannot control the rage excited by the conviction that they have by their own folly destroyed the richest sources of their prosperity. They refuse even to listen to proposals for the only peace possible between us—a peace which recognizing the impassable gulf which divides us may leave the two peoples separately to recover from the injuries inflicted on both by the causeless war now waged against us. Having begun the war in direct violation of their Constitution, which forbade the attempt to coerce a State, they have been hardened by crime until they no longer attempt to veil their purpose to destroy the institutions and subvert the sovereignty and independence of these States. We now know that the only reliable hope for peace is in the vigor of our resistance, while the cessation of their hostility is only to be expected from the pressure of their necessities.

The patriotism of the people has proved equal to every sacrifice demanded by their country's need. We have been united as a people never were united under like circumstances before. God has blessed us with success disproportionate to our means, and under His divine favor, our labors must at last be crowned with the rewards due to men who have given all they possessed to the righteous defence of their inalienable rights, their homes, and their altars.

JEFFERSON DAVIS.

RICHMOND, Dec. 7, 1863.

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HALIFAX COUNTY.

Isaac N. Faulcon and others
against
M. T. J. Alston and wife Martha.

THIS is a petition filed at November Term, A. D., 1863, of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, by Isaac N. Faulcon and others against M. T. J. Alston and wife Martha, praying for a division of slaves, and it appearing to the Court that M. T. J. Alston and wife Martha, reside beyond the limits of the State; it is ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Wilmington Journal, a weekly newspaper published in the town of Wilmington, notifying said defendants to appear at the next term of said Court to be held at the Court House in Halifax, on the third Monday of February, A. D., 1864, then and there to plead answer or demur to said petition, otherwise judgment *pro confesso* will be rendered against them.

Witness, Jas. H. Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office in Halifax, the third Monday of November, A. D., 1863.
J. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.

Dec. 10th, 1863 Pr adv $24 11-6t

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
HALIFAX COUNTY.

Judy Daniel and others
against
Elizabeth Carstarphur;

THIS IS A PETITION filed at November Term, A. D. 1861, of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said County, by Judy Daniel and others against Elizabeth Carstarphur, praying for partition of real estate, and it appearing to the Court that Elizabeth Carstarphur resides beyond the limits of the State of North Carolina, it is ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Wilmington Journal, a weekly newspaper published in the town of Wilmington, notifying said defendant to appear at the next term of said Court, to be held at the Court House in Halifax, on the third Monday of February, A. D. 1864, then and there to answer, plead or demur to said petition, otherwise judgment *pro confesso* will be rendered against her.

Witness, Jas. H. Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office in Halifax, the third Monday of November, A. D. 1863.
JAS. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.

Dec. 10 1863. Pr adv$24 11-6t

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
HALIFAX COUNTY.

Isaac N. Faulcon and others,
vs.
M. T. J. Alston and wife.

THIS is a petition filed at November Term, A. D., 1863, of the Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for said county, by Isaac N. Faulcon and others, against M. T. J. Alston and wife Martha, praying for a distribution of Real Estate; and it appearing that M. T. J. Alston and wife Martha reside without the limits of the State, it is ordered that publication be made for six weeks in the Wilmington Journal, a weekly newspaper, published in the town of Wilmington, notifying said defendants to appear at the next term of said court, at the Court House in Halifax, on the third Monday of February, A. D., 1864, then and there to plead, answer or demure to said petition, otherwise judgment *pro confesso* will be rendered against them.

Witness, Jas. H. Whitaker, Clerk of said Court, at office in Halifax, the 3d Monday of November, A. D., 1863.
JAS. H. WHITAKER, Clerk.

Dec 9th, 1863. Pr adv$24 11 6t

ATTENTION SICK.

IN CONSEQUENCE of General Orders No. 141, A. & I. General's Office, Oct. 29th 1863; certificates for extension of Furlough from private Physicians or single Medical Officer, cannot be received. Therefore, all such members of Com. any H, 51st N. C. Regiment, are hereby notified that they will have to report to the Enrolling Officer of their District and be examined for extension of Furlough by the Examining Board for Conscripts. All failing to comply immediately with this order will be reported as absent without leave, and will be punished accordingly.
S. W. MAULTSBY, Captain
Commanding Company H,
51st N. C. Troops,
Clingman's Brigade.

Dec. 10th 11-2t*

NOTICE.

I WILL SELL on the 7th January, 1864, at my plantation in Bladen county, my crop of Corn, Peas, Rye, Potatoes, Fodder and Hay, Farming Utensils, Carts, &c., two good Horses, a few Cattle and Hogs.

I will also hire out 20 Negroes (men, women and children,) and rent my Plantation. Terms made known on day of sale.
E. E. ROBESON.

Prospect Hall, N. C., Dec 6th. 11-2t*

STRAYED.

A SMALL BLACK HORSE MULE, with a long tail, strayed from the Salt-Works on Masonboro' sound on the 27th November, 1863, for which a liberal reward will be paid to any one returning him to me at my home in Bladen county.
J. S. RICHARDSON.

Dec. 10th 11-2t*

The Army.

We have already alluded to the unanimous disposition of Congress to do away with the provision of the Conscript Law permitting persons to put in substitutes. As showing the temper of Congress, as well as what has been done in that regard as also upon other questions, we quote the following from the Senate proceedings on Thursday last:

THE SUBSTITUTE QUESTION.

Mr. Sparrow, of Louisiana, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported back the bill to prohibit the enlistment and enrollment of substitutes in the military service of the Confederate States, etc. The following is a copy of the bill:

I. That no person liable to military service shall hereafter be permitted or allowed to furnish a substitute for such service, nor shall any substitute be received, enlisted or enrolled in the military service of the Confederate States; [and that all laws heretofore passed permitting or allowing persons liable to military service to furnish substitutes for the same, or authorizing the acceptance, enlistment or enrollment of any such substitute in the military service, be and the same are hereby repealed.]

Mr. Davis, of N. C., inquired whether the repeal in terms of laws authorizing the employment of substitutes would not *ipso facto* make all persons who have already furnished substitutes liable to enrollment.

Several Senators briefly expressed their views upon the point thus presented, and it was suggested that the difficulty might be overcome by striking out the last clause (printed above between brackets.)

Mr. Brown was opposed to striking out the clause indicated. He regarded the putting in of substitutes as a privilege, not a contract, and he could listen with but little patience to any argument advanced to prove the contrary. All that had been said to those who had employed substitutes was in effect:—If you don't choose now to go into the army, you can employ some one in your place until you are wanted.

Mr. Phelan, of Miss., remarked that it was immaterial whether the last clause were stricken out or retained. If the bill was brought before any Judge his decision would be that the first clause repealed by implication all former laws allowing substitutes to be furnished. He favored the express repeal, and would therefore vote against striking out the last clause.

After further remarks by several Senators, Mr. Wigfall submitted the motion to strike out. The question was put, and decided in the negative. The bill was then advanced to a third reading and passed

On Friday, Mr. WIGFALL, of Texas, introduced into the Senate, "a bill to organise forces to serve during the war, of which the following is a summary:—

ORGANIZATION OF A RESERVE CORPS.

Mr. Wigfall, of Texas, introduced "a bill to organize forces to serve during the war.

1. All male white persons liable to military duty between the ages of 16 and 60 shall be in the military service of the Confederate States.

2. All between 16 and 18 and 45 and 60 shall belong to the reserve; those between 18 and 45 to the army in the field.

3. All exempts except officers of the State and Confederate governments, persons detailed for special duty or discharged from service in the army, shall belong to the reserve corps.

4. The reserve corps to be used for local defense and garrison duty, but may be sent beyond the limits of their State, in cases of great emergency, for a period not exceeding thirty days.

5. Provides for the enrollment of persons liable to duty in the reserve corps.

6. The organization of the reserve corps shall be the same as that provided for the army in the field. Existing organizations composed of non-conscripts to compose part of the reserve corps.

On motion of Mr. Wigfall, the bill was referred to the Committee on Military affairs.

IN THE HOUSE on Friday the Speaker submitted a bill from the Senate to prevent the enrollment of substitutes in the army, and that none be hereafter received, and that all laws allowing the same be repealed.

The rule was suspended, and the bill passed to a third reading.

Mr. Miles, of S. C., said the minds of members were made up some time past in relation to this subject.— The necessity of putting a stop to substitution for the future was demanded by the unanimous sentiment of the country. It had created ill blood in the army, and justly so. This was a war of the entire population of the country, and each man was, or should be, bearing part. The effect of the privilege of substitution was to allow rich men to buy another to go and bear his share of the danger in the field. The poor man felt that the war was bearing unequally. In some communities a spirit of disaffection had been created by this special privilege to others. There may be a difference of opinion as those already having substitutes in the army, but could be none as to the propriety of stopping it for the future.

Mr. Collier said the bill was ambiguous, and put all in the service.

Mr. Lyons thought the effect of the bill was to repeal the conscript law, as that authorized substitution.

Mr. Miles continued to show that the bill was misapprehended.

Mr. Conrad moved to amend the bill so as to include substitutes and all those who had furnished them.

The amendment was laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Foote thought the government had power over all contracts heretofore made by individuals for substitution. Substitution was the mere existence of a privilege. The government had no right or power to incapacitate itself for the purposes of war. Substitution was simply a contract between citizens, and Congress had the power to modify the law whatever might be the relations of individuals. He did not object to the refunding of the money in such cases, but Congress was not bound to do it. The law discriminated in favor of the rich. In this war, which was for property rights, the owners of property should fight for it. The law was obnoxious to all the objections urged against it. He wished it swept from the statute books entirely and the odious discrimination abolished.

The bill was referred to the committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

Mr. Hilton, of Florida, by consent of the House, offered an amendment that principals be required to take the places of substitutes in cases where the latter desert, or by inability from sickness, are unable to perform military duty. Laid on the table and ordered to be printed.

There is evidently, therefore, a strong determination to get rid of the system of substitution, and, to a great extent, of exemption. The employment of so many young and able-bodied men in the hospitals, the quartermaster and commissary departments, or under the nitre bureau, or in very many other positions which might be otherwise filled, is gravely animadverted upon, and will no doubt receive attention.

Among other projects of legislation we may quote that submitted by Ex-Governor Brown, of Mississippi, in the Senate on Wednesday last:

OUTLINE OF LEGISLATION PROPOSED.

Mr. Brown, of Mississippi, submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That in the present condition of the country, Congress ought, with the least practicable delay, to enact the following laws:

1st. To declare every white male person residing in the Confederate States and capable of bearing arms to be in the military service of the country.

2d. To repeal all laws authorizing substitutes or granting exemptions.

3d. To authorize the President to issue his proclamation requiring all male persons claiming and receiving foreign protection to make their election within sixty days to take up arms or quit the country.

4th. To detail from those in the military service such only as are absolutely needed in civil pursuits having reference in making such details to competency alone

5th. To levy a direct tax of — per cent. on every kind of property according to its value in Confederate notes, including the notes themselves.

7th. To make Confederate notes a legal tender in payment of debts after the expiration of six months.

To prohibit the buying and selling of gold and silver coin or the notes of banks in the United States, or United States Treasury notes, during the war, under heavy penalties; or in lieu thereof, to prohibit the "running the blockade" by individuals, under pain of forfeiture of the goods brought in and impressment during the war.

9th. Declare these laws war measures, and make those who violate them amenable to the military courts alone.

Mr. Brown said that these propositions were indicative of his own views. He didn't propose to discuss them now. At some early day he would ask the indulgence of the Senate to hear his views at length.

The resolutions were laid upon the table and ordered to be printed.

From the London Post (Government organ) Oct. 31.

Will England Modify the Enlistment Act?

It is so manifestly the interest of Great Britain to observe with strictness the obligations arising from neutrality that it is extraordinary she should be more than suspected by the Federal Government of having disregarded in this respect the duties imposed upon her by international law. We do not now refer to the stereotyped abuse which, on all occasions, and in the absence of any conceivable pretext, the Northern press and Northern statesmen think proper to launch against the Government of this country. There is amongst a very large class of well educated and, as they believe themselves, unbiassed men in the Federal States, a strong conviction that the British Goverment have, in every conceivable manner short of flagrantly outraging the law of nations, endeavored to aid the Southern Confederacy in its efforts to achieve its independence.— They close their eyes (unconsciously, perhaps,) to the fact, that it is in English markets that the North has chiefly obtained the material of war which has been employed in the Southern campaigns, and looking only to scanty supplies which have, at enormous risk, been obtained by the Confederate Government, protest against the facilities which have been afforded to those who are regarded as rebels against the established Government. * * *

Should the Foreign enlistment act prove a dead letter, the very important question will arise, whether, while the American civil war is still pending, it would be fitting to modify it, especially as the modification would operate solely against one of the belligerents.— On the one hand the future interest of this country must be regarded, and on the other the obvious infringement of the spirit, if not the letter, of neutrality, by legislating to meet the requirements of one of the contending parties. On the one side, policy and international law impress the necessity of preventing vessels intended to be used against a friendly State leaving our shores. On the other, honor and dignity dissuade from introducing changes which can operate only against the weaker of the two belligerents, between whom we are desirous of standing perfectly neutral.— The position is a difficult one for the British Government; and it may be less so for the Legislature. The modifications which have been introduced into naval warfare, and the construction of special engines of destruction which were unknown the to framers of the Foreign Enlistment act, have made the course to be pursued by the Government still more difficult and uncertain.

The act is silent about the building of ships, and prohibits solely their being armed or equipped with the object of being used against a friendly State. But does the building of a vessel which can be employed as a ram for running down others constitute an infringment of the act? Some say yes, whilst other no less respectable authorities say no. Supposing the courts of laws say no, ought the Legislature to interpose and supply the deficiency in the law? This question may, in fact, be submitted to the Legislature, and if so its reply will demand the exercise of the greatest prudence and the greatest discrimination. To our mind the most fitting answer which could be given would be to the effect that that country had framed its laws with a view of enforcing neutral obligations, and that if those laws are proved to be defective it must await a time when suitable modification can be introduced without prejudice to the interests of a particular State.

A FEMALE THIEF.—The following announcement in an exchange should cause Gov. Sprague, of Rhode Island, who recently wedded Miss Chase, to repent somewhat of his bargain:

Ann Chase, daughter of Secretary Chase, of Washington, an account of whose marriage was transferred to our columns, acquired an unenviable celebrity some time since of New Orleans by the abstraction of ladies' apparel, jewelry and silver plate from the residence of the wealthy Dr. Campbell, of that city. The plate she was compelled to disgorge to the United States Government, but she succeeded in making way with the other articles.

CAMP 20TH N. C. REG'T., ON THE RAPIDAN, VA., }
Dec. 4th, 1863. }

MESSRS. EDITORS:—Since my last communication, the 20th N. Carolina has participated in all the important movements of Gen. Rodes' division, first in the affair at Kelly's Ford, on the 7th Nov., where we had one officer (Lt. Lawson, of Co. F,) badly wounded, and more recently in the manoeuverings this side the Rapidan, by which the Yankees have been driven beyond that river. Of our division the sharpshooters and a portion of the artillery only were actually engaged. Other divisions, however, did some hard fighting. We are again in our old camp near Morton's Ford, resting from the labors of the past ten days, which have been, indeed, wearisome. Both officers and men are in good health and spirits. We have not lost a man killed since the battle of Gettysburg. To our sharpshooters too much praise cannot be given, selected as the bravest and most expert officers and men in the brigade, and their recent skill and patience in guarding our front lines under circumstances dangerous, and in various other ways unfavorable, show the selections to be good ones.

Brig. Gen. Johnston returned from his home a short time since, where he had been for some time confined by a wound received and is now present and in command.

Yours, &c., D. K. B.

For the Journal.

CAMP 27TH REG'T N. C. T., }
NEAR ORANGE C. H., Dec. 5th, 1863. }

At a meeting of the officers of the 27th N. C. Troops, held near Orange C. H., Va., Dec. 5th, 1863, on motion, Capt. Calvin Herring, Co. D, was called to the Chair, and Adj't W. A. Knight was appointed Secretary.

The chairman, in a few appropriate remarks, explained the object of the meeting.

On motion, a committee of four, consisting of Captain Rob't W. Joyner, Co. E, Capt. Jas. Manker, Co. H, Lieut. J. A. Graham, Co. G, and Lt. H. F. Price, Co. H, were appointed by the chairman to draft resolutions for the meeting.

The committee retired for a short time, and returned with following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, The sad news of the death of Capt. Jos. A. Williams, Co. H, 27th N C. Troops, has reached us, and the name of another brave officer is added to the list of the noble dead, who were either killed, or who have since died of wounds received at the battle of Bristow Station, Oct. 14th, 1863, therefore—

Resolved, That while we bow with humbleness to the will of a just God, we must express our regret at the death of our friend and companion in arms. All are sensible of the great loss we have experienced in his death. His noble bearing, his high-soul love of country, his fearless courage which never quailed or shrunk before a foe, however powerful, his obedience to authority, and his courteous, and his affable manners, will cause all who knew him to remember him with admiration and affection.

Resolved, That among the many gallant young men who have sealed their devotion with their hearts' best blood to the cause of our struggling nation, there are none more worthy of the admiration than him whose memory we now pay this last sad tribute of respect. Brave, true and kind, he has passed away to another world, but his spirit remains with us. His principles of honor, integrity, and his general disposition and ready wit, will long remain a subject of fireside conversation.

Resolved, That while we mourn his loss as a faithful friend and pleasant companion, and a noble champion of our holy cause, we should remember his bereaved relatives, and offer them our deepest sympathies, and point them to the Supreme Ruler above, the only physician who has a balm to soothe their sorrowing hearts.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to his family, also to the Petersburg Register, Fayetteville Observer and Wilmington Journal, with the request to publish them.

R. W. JOYNER, Capt. Co. E.
J. F. MANKER, " Co. H.
J. A. GRAHAM, Lieut. Co. G.
H. F. PRICE, " Co. H.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.
CALVIN HERRING, Ch'n.
W. A. KNIGHT, Sec'y.

WANTED

BY THE SUBSCRIBER, A SCHOOL in January next. I teach the classics, French, Italian and English.
GEORGE PADDISON,
Gravelly Hill P. O.,
Bladen County, N. C.

Nov. 19th 8-6t*

SAMUEL W. HOLDEN, Adm'r } Petition for sales of Real
to the Court. } Estate to assets.

IT IS ORDERED by the Court that the prayer of the petition be granted that Samuel R. Bunting, Clerk be appointed guardian *ad litem* for Caroline, John and Sylvanus Holden minors [illegible] to said petition, and that publication be made for six week in the Wilmington Journal for [illegible] and W [illegible] Holden to appear and answer said petition at the next term of this Court. Test
SAMUEL R. BUNTING, Clerk.

Nov. 25th, 1863. 9-6t

THE WILMINGTON JOURNAL.

CONFEDERATE STATES OF AMERICA.

WILMINGTON, N. C., THURSDAY, DEC. 17, 1863.

MISSING.

The following copies of our *Weekly Journal* are missing from our files. Any person having them will confer a favor by sending them to us, for which we will pay 50 cents for two copies of each date:

October 9th, 1862—2 copies.
March 19th, 1863—1 "
" 26th, 1863—2 "

CONGRESS has much less than three months to work upon before it expires. Whatever it means to do, had therefore better be done quickly. One thing it does seem determined to put through at once—the repeal of that provision of the conscription law allowing persons to put in substitutes. That provision appears to receive no favor or mercy from anybody. The time for putting in substitutes is about closed. There will be few more offered and still fewer accepted.

What course will be adopted in reference to those who already have substitutes in the army appears to be rather difficult to foresee. That the recommendation of the Secretary of War to conscribe the principals, the same as if no substitutes had been offered or accepted, will be adopted in all its length and breath, we very much doubt; and yet if this be *not* done, we hardly see what else *can* be done with those who have put in substitutes, save to let them go on their winding way, seeking whom they may speculate upon, which they too generally do, following the established order of the day. The substitute clause was a bad one from the first and has worked badly. But the harm appears to have been done, and the repeal of that clause at this late day very much resembles the act of locking the stable door after the horse has made his escape. The number of substitutes likely to be offered hereafter must be small in proportion to those which have already been offered and accepted, and have since died or deserted. Indeed the largest number of substitutes now sought for is probably on the part of those who have served well and faithfully all through the war and are willing to give almost anything for a chance to be at home to see after their deranged affairs and neglected families. If any men ought to be favoured, these men ought, and surely it would seem hard to refuse them a privilege which so many have availed themselves of to the making of their own fortunes at the expense of the country. We do not think that any green substitute is an equivalent for a tried and veteran soldier, but the tried and veteran soldier who has done brave service is entitled to some privilege, as much at least as the speculators and others who have done no service, and these latter have put in substitutes. We would go for taking the whole lot, past present and future, or else letting the thing stand. Treat the substitute business as a dead letter from the first, or let it go on as it is. Don't make fish of one and flesh of another.

The exemption bill will be a good deal modified, but to nothing like the extent that would appear to be indicated by the recommendations in the President's message and the Report of the Secretary of War. No doubt the exemptions under this bill are greatly abused. But some exemptions there must be, and there will be. The attempt to get along without such would be found difficult if not wholly impossible.

We are glad to see that Congress has passed certain resolutions of enquiry. We trust that *some dark things* may be made light, and *some crooked things* straight, or tolerably so, for there are some things that the people do not "see into" by any means.

As a matter of course there will be any number of bills, projects of bills, schemes, plans and systems introduced by way of working out the reformation of our currency.—Congress will soon have waded through these by promptly referring them to the joint select committee raised to take the matter under consideration, and report a bill or bills for the action of Congress. This committee will hardly report before Christmas, as it is to be supposed that its members will give to the subject the maturest and most careful consideration, and avail themselves of every source of information within their reach, as also of the opportunity of consulting with and obtaining the advice and opinion of the most experienced financiers. While delay would be fatal, undue haste might be equally so, not only failing to accomplish the good sought for, but even doing harm in some way not dreamed of nor anticipated.

From Nassau.

By the steamer Lucy, Captain DEGUID, from Nassau, we have a file of the Nassau *Guardian* to the 5th instant. We find little that has not been anticipated.

The *Guardian* of the 25th ult., contains a statement of the revenue and expenditure of the Bahama Islands for the 9 months ending Sept. 30th, 1863, as follows:

1st quarter,	£11,259	3	5
2nd quarter,	22,089	4	1
3rd quarter,	17,997	9	2
Total Receipts,	£51,345	16	8
Expenditure,	34,053	6	7
Surplus,	£17,292	10	1

The Legislature of North Carolina has probably adjourned by this time. We believe it agreed to adopt most of the recommendations embraced in Gov. VANCE's message. From all we have been able to hear, there is every indication of a breach, or at least a serious divergence between the ultra "Conservatives" of the HOLDEN faction and the "Conservative" friends of Gov. VANCE. Of this thing more, no doubt, will yet be seen. It has been pretty freely talked of in Raleigh, and the fact that the *Standard* has coldly allowed Gov. VANCE's message to pass by without even the slightest mention, has not, of course, escaped remark. "Things is workin."

As we much prefer the position occupied by Governor VANCE to that occupied by the *Standard*, our prepossessions are of course with Governor VANCE. But then this is a family quarrel, in which a "destructive," a "secesh," or a "Democrat," (unless he turns renegade), has nothing to do or to say.—*Daily Journal, 12th.*

THE Legislature of North Carolina has adjourned to meet on the 3d Tuesday in May next.

Upon the whole the Legislature at its last session showed less partyism than might have been expected. The "Conservatives" were pretty much paralyzed by a division or misunderstanding among themselves. Mr. AVERA, of Johnston county, prematurely unmasked his battery, without waiting for the wagon, and even after a caucus had been held the faithful could not be quite brought up to the scratch, especially as Mr. GRAHAM was understood to throw cold water upon the whole programme.

IT is reported that CHASE, Secretary of the Federal Treasury is to resign and be appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of the United States, from which Judge TANEY has resigned. We doubt CHASE's going on the bench. He will want to take a shy at the Presidency.

N. C. VOLUNTEER NAVY COMPANY.—The address of Rev. WILLIAMSON HARRIS, on behalf of the above Company, delivered last night at the Town Hall, was well attended by an attentive audience, to whom he explained clearly and satisfactorily its character, aims, objects and prospects. We are pleased to learn that a favorable interest has been drawn to the subject, and that the prospect of subscription to the stock is quite encouraging. We regret that we could not attend personally, having been prevented by a cold of which we thought we had got clear, but which has "returned strong," to our great annoyance. Such a cold is more like a distemper for a horse than a disease for a decent christian to have.

Daily Journal, 15th.

The Capture of the Chesapeake.

The capture of the Yankee steamer Chesapeake on her trip from New York to Portland, and off the celebrated Massachusetts Bay, is certainly one of the most daring exploits that history or romance has to record. The last accounts are that she called off St. John's, and took on board Captain PARKER, of the privateer *Retribution*, who took command. PARKER appears to be the sea name of Captain LOCKE, who may be remembered here and in Fayetteville, and who commanded the *Retribution*. He is a native of the British Provinces, we believe. We rather think she will make her mark, if she be at all fitted for the business in which, no doubt, she is to be employed.

NEW MUSIC.—We have, with respects of the publishers, Messrs. GEO. DUNN & Co., Richmond, Va., a "Christmas and New Year Musical Souvenir" containing three songs, with music to wit: "Fairies have broken their Wands," words by THOMAS HOOD, "The Lover's wish," words by F. W. ROZIER; "I know a Maiden fair to see," words by LONGFELLOW. The music is by F. W. R. We presume the music is for sale at the Book and Music Stores.

ALL the accounts from the North indicate that MEADE is about to be superseded. Some accounts have it that GRANT is to be sent East with a portion of his force, to recruit the army of the Potomac, of which he is to take command, while other accounts have it that General PLEASANTON is to take MEADE's place. The command of the Army of the Potomac is indeed a Golgotha of Generals, and ROBERT E. LEE has been the means of giving many of them their quietus. MEADE's head is doomed to the block, and that also of his successor, unless the successor has a force that cannot possibly be coped with.

The news from the West is vague and unsatisfactory. We do not know whether to attach any importance to the reported evacuation of Chattanooga by the enemy, said to have been brought by an aid to the President. For our own part, we have little or no confidence in it.

Apparently, Longstreet is able to hold his position in upper East Tennessee, and will do so, at least until a large portion of the hog crop of that most porky region has been gathered in. Should the report prove true that Grant is really to take the command of the Federal army of the Potomac, with 30,000 reinforcements, Longstreet cannot be in too good a position to reinforce Lee, who will have to resist a more powerful army and an abler and more successful General than any that has yet been opposed to him. Our troops on the Rapidan have mostly prepared winter quarters, but there is no assurance that they may not yet be called upon to take the field even during the present season.

Fast Day

Was observed here in accordance with the recommendation of the Governor, by a general cessation of business and by religious services in the various Churches. The whole day resembled Sunday, and its quiet seemed to be unmarred by any noise or visible manifestations of dissipation, too frequent upon holiday occasions. About the usual number of people were in the streets, but all quiet and orderly. We have heard of no accidents or other unpleasant occurrences.

COUNTY COURT.—The Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions for New Hanover County, met this forenoon at the Court House in this town, WM. A. WRIGHT, Esq., Chairman, presiding. The most important business of a public character before the Court is the election of a sheriff to fill the unexpired term of our late worthy and lamented Sheriff, W. T. J. VANN, Esq. We presume the election will come off to-morrow. We have heard of a goodly number of candidates, all of them no doubt good men, so that the Justices will have ample room for selection.

Daily Jour., 14th.

SHERIFF.—Col. E. D. HALL was Tuesday morning elected by the County Court, Sheriff of New Hanover County, to fill the unexpired term of W. T. J. VANN, Esq., deceased.

The President's Message

To the present session of Congress is by far the the longest document that Mr. DAVIS has yet given to the world.—

The message is well-written, as are all the productions of Mr. DAVIS; it is firm and patriotic, as was to have been expected, and yet still it hardly strikes us so favorably as any of his former messages. It does not satisfy us as they did. Why? We can hardly tell, but we know that it does not. Somehow, although we agree with most of his recommendations, there is wanting that sense of conclusiveness, of completeness that gives force to argument and confidence to conviction. This is only so as contrasted with Mr. DAVIS' previous efforts, and may be the result of the great and perhaps *necessary length of the message*, which imparts to it the appearance of diffuseness, and to the reader the sense of fatigue.

Our Navy in England.

In the matter of the iron-clads and other vessels now under construction in English ship-yards, and alleged to be intended for the Confederate States, it would appear as though the English administration wished to evade the responsibility of action and at the same time shrink from the establishment of a precedent.

The ship Alexandra, alleged to be intended for the Confederates and designed, like the Alabama, Florida and Georgia, to operate against Yankee commerce, was seized some months ago on the plea of an alleged violation of the neutrality laws of Great Britain. The case was tried before a single Judge of the Court of Exchequer, and under the charge of the Judge, the finding was in favour of the ship and would have secured her release, but that the government took an appeal to the Court *in banc*, where at the last accounts the whole question of the law was being reargued before all the Judges. Whether or not they affirm the ruling of the single Judge before whom the case was first tried, the question will not then be ended. If they do, there still remains the appeal to the House of Lords. If they do not, then the case must again go before a jury to be tried under new instructions. The whole machinery of the law's delay is open and will be probably employed to tide the matter over until its decision one way or the other can make little or no difference, and then it will be suffered to drop, or at best disposed of on some side issue not affecting the main question.

Such appears to us to be the course pursued by the British authorities, and in availing themselves of the law's delay to detain these vessels pending hostilities, they playing into the hands of LINCOLN and SEWARD just as directly as if they were to seize and hold them unconditionally. We have little enough, God knows, to thank foreign nations for.

THE Charleston papers have announced a further advance of their rate of subscriptions, to go into effect on and after the first of January next, when their charge for the daily paper will be $15 for six months. Their advertising rates on and after Tuesday last are three dollars per square.

GOOD FOR THE PHAT MEN.—The Yankees have decided that "abdomens grossly protuberant, or excessive obesity," are sufficient causes for exemption. How much would it cost a Confederate to raise a corporosity—to have an "abdomen grossly protuberant" at the present price of victuals?

THE Richmond *Whig* says there are indications of a fresh advance by MEADE.

An officer direct from Northern Virginia (Colonel E. D. HALL) informs us that when he left the army the roads were in capital order, and that so far the season interposes no obstacle to an active campaign. The gallant army of Northern Virginia, (about half North Carolinians,) is in capital order and in fine spirits.

PROFESSOR L. S. SHORT, the man who tried to make, and thought he had succeeded in making unextinguishable fire to cast among the women and children of Charleston died in Philadelpha on the 26th ult. Ere this he has no doubt found what he so ardently sought after,—a fire that cannot be quenched. Verily he has his reward.

WE have from the publishers, Messrs. JOHNSTON & SCHAFFTER, Lynchburg, Va., "The Southern Almanac for 1864. Calculated by DAVID RICHARDSON, of Louisa county, Virginia. It gives a neatly printed Calendar, as also some valuable information about the Confederate government, with tables, etc.

The Army of Tennessee.

The Atlanta *Confederacy* of Tuesday, in its article "from the front," says:

We learn that a correspondence which has been pending for several days between the President, Gens. Hardee, Johnston and Bragg has culminated in an arranged reorganization of the command of the army above.

Gen. Joseph E. Johnston is to take supreme head of affairs, with Gen. Bragg as chief of staff—a combination long sought by the country, and presenting a cheering front to the future. We have no words to express our delight at so equitable, popular and proper an adjustment of the vexed problem. With Johnston to plan, supervise and direct, and with Bragg to conduct the office details and police of the army, it will restore confidence as it will be itself restorted. The people and the soldiers will accept this tardy tribute to their discerning good sense, with gratitude and confidence.

How far this can be relied upon we cannot say. We give it for what it may be worth, merely adding that the *Confederacy* is very careful in regard to the accuracy of its statements under this "Front" head. It would seem to be an excellent arrangement, but we doubt whether General BRAGG could accept the position of Chief of Staff to General JOHNSTON, or any other General, since that would be derogatory to his rank, which is equal to that of General JOHNSTON, and the position of Chief of Staff, even to a full General, is certainly not higher than Major General.

THERE was a report in Richmond on Monday that HOOKER was again in command of the Yankee army of the Potomac, having superceded MEADE, whose failure to advance has given Secretary STANTON a fit of hydrophobia.

WE regret to learn that Hon. WM. LANDER, of this State, is detained at home by severe illness, and consequently has not been able, thus far, to attend the present session of Congress.

THE FAYETTEVILLE CAROLINIAN.—We are pleased to learn that Col. P. J. SINCLAIR is about resuming the publication of the "*North Carolinian*," daily and weekly. He expects to issue his first paper about the 1st proximo. We wish the Colonel every success in his undertaking.

ASHORE.—We understand that there was heavy firing on the coast last night and this morning. We learn that the blockaders have chased the Steamer Beauregard ashore some distance above Fort Fisher, near Battery Gatlin.—Whether or not the ship or her cargo, or any part of it can be saved, is more than we can yet say. There was a report this forenoon that the ship had been set on fire. This wants confirmation.—*Daily Journal, 14th.*

THE SOUTHERN LITERARY MESSENGER, double number for November and December, is on our table.

This number closes the 37th volume of the Messenger, which is the oldest Magazine in the Confederacy, and among the oldest in the former Union. The table of contents is rich and varied, and the Messenger, at its present price of ten dollars a year, is still the cheapest literary publication in the Confederacy.

Impressment Extraordinary.

In accordance with a recommendation of a committee of citizens, concurred in by the Commissioners of the Town, having in view the obtainment of provisions for the people here who might otherwise suffer, we learn that His Honor, the Mayor, having first received the concurrence and guarantee of Generals Whiting and Pickett that provisions bought for this purpose should not be liable to impressment or other military interference, did, through duly authorized agents purchase five hundred barrels of flour at or in the country round about Salisbury, which flour, so guaranteed and so purchased for a benevolent purpose, on behalf of an incorporated town, has, as we have been informed this morning, been seized and impressed by Captain Myers, Commissary at Salisbury. We suppose Captain Myers merely acted according to his orders as he understood them—these orders coming, we suppose, from the Commissary General at Richmond, a gentleman named Northrup, formerly of Charleston, who has the peculiar faculty and distinguished talent of doing everything in the most disagreeable manner in which it can possibly be done, and who has succeeded in doubling the odium necessarily attaching to all impressments, and intensifying the public opposition to them. If this sort of thing is carried on charity will be paralyzed, and benevolence become a mockery. We must believe that the authorities at the seat of government will see that this thing at least is put right.

NORTHERN papers say that another Russian fleet is expected at New York. If this be true it gives additional color of probability to the reports that Russia is preparing for war in the Spring, and that by ordering her fleets to winter on this side the Atlantic, she wishes to avoid having them cooped up in the Baltic and Black seas by the combined navies of France and England, as they were during the Crimean war. Should war break out in the Spring an important part of the Russian fleet will be abroad to prey upon English and French commerce.

State Items.

HANGED.—The *Salisbury Watchman* says that Jacob Murph, who was sentenced at last November term of Rowan Superior Court, by His Honor, Judge Bailey, to be hanged for the murder of Cope, suffered the penalty of the law on Friday last, near Salisbury. A large crowd witnessed the execution.

A MUNIFICENT DONATION.—We learn from the Greensboro *Way of the World* that during the recent meeting of the N. C. Conference in that place, Messrs. O. G. and J. F. Foard donated to the Conference the Olin High School property, consisting of ten acres of land, the school building and two Professors' houses, and an endowment of forty thousand dollars. This donation secures to the Conference, in addition to the valuable property, a charter for a College.

BLOCKADE SALES.—The auction sale of blockade goods, advertised to take place here to-day, is progressing quietly at Mr. MORRIS' auction rooms. Owing, perhaps, to the occurrence of large sales to-day and to-morrow at Augusta, the attendance is not quite as large as at the last sale. Some goods realize about the same prices as at the sale of last month, but generally speaking there is a very decided decline.

THE young ladies of Goldsboro' contemplate having a series of Tableaux, Charades and Plays, to commence on the evening of the 22d, and continue on the 23d and 24th inst. They most respectfully invite their friends generally to attend. This fund is for the soldiers' wives, so come one, come all.

The Encounter Between Quantrell and Blunt.

A friend, now in Richmond conversant with the facts furnishes the Sentinel the following account of the affair between the gallant Colonel Quantrell and the Yankee General Blunt:

BALLARD HOUSE, Dec. 4, 1863.

During the few days I have been in your city I have seen several notices in the papers respecting the affair of Col. Quantrell and Gen. Blunt, all of which I found to be incorrect.

As I am in possession of the facts of the case received from Quantrell himself, and corroborated by many of his troops at different times and places, all saying the same thing, it is due to Quantrell himself, to the community, and especially to the interests of the Southern cause, that they should be placed before the public. They are briefly these:

Quantrell, with his company and others that had joined him, for mutual aid, (300 in all) started in the latter part of September from the Missouri river in Kansas, or west part of Missouri, to go to Texas for the purpose of resting and recruiting his horses and other stock. On his way, about the first of October, he came across Fort Baxter, very unexpectedly, as he knew nothing of its being there. It is situated directly on the line between the Cherokee nation proper and what is called the neutral lands of that nation, lying within the claimed boundary of Kansas. Here he had a little brush, in which he had two men killed and five wounded.

Finding he could do nothing there he drew off; but very soon after, within a mile or two of the fort, he saw a company of about 150 men coming directly right on him. He called to his men to close up and prepare to charge, which they did, and the Federals prepared to receive them. When Quantrell's men were within thirty yards of them, the Federals fired their pistols at them, but not a single shot took effect, the whole discharge passing over their heads. Quantrell then rushed in, and the Federals turned and fled, scattering in every direction, our troops pursuing and killing all they came up with. It was in a wide open prairie, and they soon spread over a large space.

The number of Federals killed is supposed to be about 75 or 100. Quantrell lost one killed and one wounded. In a contest at the band wagon he killed 10. He captured Gen. Blount's carriage, ambulance and a train of eight or ten wagons, with supplies of clothing, stores and arms, with many horses and mules. The wagons, with many of the stores, he burnt, but brought the carriage, ambulance and most of the arms away. He also captured Blount's trunk containing many papers, including his commission; his sword, knife and gun, all very fine and heavily ornamented with gold; besides other property with Blount's name on it.

Quantrell did not know who he was fighting till it was all over, and was then told that Blount was killed and supposed it to be true, but did not himself know the fact. It is not true that he sought him or laid a trap for him. He did not expect Blount; it was all accidentally. It is not true that a yellow boy was all that escaped; many got away. The above are the true facts of the case.

Counterfeit Twenties.

M. Guisot, at the Government Depository in Mobile, has received a letter from the Secretary of the Treasury, explaining the trouble in relation to the doubtful twenty dollars Treasury notes. The Mobile Tribune says:

It seems that several Scotch workmen were brought from Europe to Columbia for the engraving establishment at that place. These men were rogues, and stole printed copies of the notes, and had them filled up by persons in the town, who were in collusion, and reaped a part of the profits. The whole amount known to have been fradulently issued is $240,000. It is all stamped in red, and the stamp, which is of Government order in the true notes, is of "June, 1863." How much of the issue of the $20 denomination was made in that month we do not know; but we suppose that the $240,000 is only a small part of it. It is satisfactory to know that all engaged in the business have been arrested.

TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 13th, 1863.

The fire in Fort Sumter was purely accidental and unavoidable. It has been completely extinguished, and the strength of the Fort is as good as before. The list of casualties has not yet been received. No firing on Sumter yesterday or to-day, and very little firing between the batteries. Four shells were thrown into the city between two and three o'clock this afternoon. No person injured. Thirteen Yankee prisoners, including three commissioned officers of the U. S. Brig Jerry, captured at Murrell inlet, near Georgetown, by the 21st Georgia Cavalry, have arrived here, and been committed to jail.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 14th, 1863.

No firing last night. Nothing new this morning.

FROM TENNESSEE.

BRISTOL, Dec. 12th, 1863.

The news from the front is decidedly encouraging. Our cavalry are still at Morristown, and the enemy retiring since Longstreet has placed Cumberland Gap in his front instead of his rear. Longstreet's, Ransom's and Vance's command have been consolidated, and perfect confidence is felt that he will hold the country. Vaughan's command has also succeeded in joining the main body.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12th, 1863.

The President has informed the committee on the Tobacco trade in this city that the Confederate government neither could nor would object to the shipment of Tobacco actually belonging to the French government, if cleared from a Confederate port, not to touch at any point in the United States. The trade adopted a resolution declaring that said Tobacco was not bought prior to the 4th March, 1861 as represented in the order of the Federal government consenting to its removal.

Judge Ould has informed the Yankee authorities that no more food or clothing will be allowed to be delivered at City Point for the prisoners in Richmond after the present supplies are exhausted. They will receive the same rations as our soldiers in the field.

FROM THE WEST.

MOBILE, Dec. 12th, 1863.

A special telegram to the Register and Advertiser, dated Oxford, Miss., Dec. 12th, contains Northern intelligence to the 8th. Grant lost in the late engagement 4500 in the fourth corps, and 2300 in Gen. McNeal's.

Reliable information states that twenty thousand men under Gen. Price, are marching on Little Rock and Fort Smith.

Chase reports funds on hand amounting to one billion one hundred million of dollars, and opposes a further issue.

The Conservative Committee have met and recommended McClellan for the Presidency.

The reward for John Morgan has been increased to five thousand dollars. Two of his officers who escaped have been caught near Louisville.

The number of colored troops in the field is forty-eight thousand, and in service one hundred and sixty thousand.

The Steamer Fanny McBurg, burned near Fort Pillow a few days ago, was a total loss.

CAPTURE OF A YANKEE STEAMER.

RICHMOND, Dec. 13th, 1863.

The steamer Chesapeake, from New York to Portland, with a cargo valued at one hundred and eighty thousand dollars, was taken possession of on Monday, 7th inst., by sixteen rebels, who were apparently unarmed passengers. The captain was put in irons, and the second Engineer killed. The capture took place twenty-one miles Northeast of Cape Cod. The captured officers and crew were landed at Partridge Island. The steamer then started to sea and when last seen was going alongside another vessel, apparently taking in coal. A fleet of vessels have gone in pursuit.

A resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives, recommending that efforts be made to secure the exchange prisoners in the hands of the rebels; yeas 106, nays 46. Gold closed firm at 149.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 13th, 1863.

The boiler and pattern shops of Eason's foundry took fire about 9 o'clock last night, and were destroyed. Eleven shells were thrown into the city between eleven and twelve o'clock. Several contained Greek fire, which burned some ten or fifteen minutes after the explosion. The enemy fired from four guns simultaneously. The firing appeared exceedingly spiteful. No firing on Sumter.

REPORTS OF THE YANKEE SECRETARIES

RICHMOND, Dec. 13th, 1863

The report of Lincoln's Secretary of War is in the usual and Yankee glorification style. He declares the Federal force firmly planted in every rebel State, reiterates the falsehoods of the Yankee agents for exchange of prisoners—which publication and correspondence has been already published and fully established—and unblushingly avows the refusal of his government to allow us credit for prisoners captured and paroled by Gen. Morgan and other rebel leaders. He says the Yankees have forty thousand rebel prisoners, and the rebels thirteen thousand Yankee prisoners. The Yankee conscript law has been enforced in 12 States, and has brought fifty thousand men into the field and ten millions of substitute money into the Treasury. He says the reports of the armies indicate that a large proportion will re-enlist if the Government will give furloughs one month before their terms expire. He says the negro troops have shown sufficient courage as infantry soldiers.

The Secretary of the Navy opens his report by declaring he knows it to be false that the blockade has not been effectively maintained from Alexandria to the Rio Grande.—He refers to the slow progress of the siege of Charleston for over five months to endeavor to capture the original seat of insurrection and disunion. The port is finally closed, and as a commercial city the mart of Charleston has no existence; and if the rebels, by great sacrifice and exhaustion, hold out a few weeks more, it is of no importance. The vessels lost by capture, or in engagements, or destroyed to prevent falling into the hands of the rebels, is nineteen, carrying one hundred and five guns. He goes into a great rage at the exploits of the Sumter, Alabama, Florida and Georgia, and complains in the severest terms of the European nations for acknowledging the rebels as belligerents. He says the Yankee Navy is composed of five hundred and eighty three vessels, of which seventy five are iron clads. The number of vessels captured in attempting to run the blockade is one thousand and forty-five (?) and the value of the prizes not less than thirteen millions.

The Secretary of the Interior says that the negroes from the South are unwilling to emigrate to Africa and Hayti, and only four hundred and fifty have gone to Hayti. He questions the propriety of any further effort to colonize them, unless to some point in Central America, to work on the new route to the Pacific, or carried west to work on the Pacific Rail Road. He thinks the money appropriated by Congress to colonize them, had better be spent in taking them to these places of labor, where they can help complete a work in which, of all others, the nation has the deepest interest, except in subduing the rebellion.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12th, 1863.

The subject of retaining in service, or discharging at the end of their term, the three years' men, elicits considerable attention in Congress and is a matter of concern to the army and country. The Secretary of War has already announced that they cannot be discharged. Some members favor their discharge, but leave them liable to conscription; others favor a reorganization with the privilege of electing their officers.

An important petition has been presented to the House from the First Battalion of Artillery, from Alabama, who volunteered for three years for State defence before the Confederate Government was formed, and were afterwards turned over to the Provisional army. Since then they have not been allowed to choose their officers, and outsiders have been appointed to command them. They have been treated cruelly, and denied the privileges usually enjoyed by soldiers. Had they foreseen the treatment not one would have volunteered. All were dissatisfied and looked anxiously for the time of their discharge. Not a single man wished to withdraw from the army as long as they were needed. The first volunteer would be the last to refuse to serve. As men of spirit and intelligence, they were unwilling to serve in the future as in the past; therefore they ask Congress, that if not discharged at the end of three years, they be allowed to re-organise their battalion and choose their officers. Petition referred.

The Speaker announced the special committee on the Finances and illegal arrests and imprisonments. A resolution was adopted calling on the President for the names of the privates mentioned by commanders, or promoted for gallantry; also asking the Secretary of the Treasury to prepare a statement of the value of all taxable property in the Confederate States, on the basis of the census of 1860, if possible; if not, then according to the census of 1850, with a reasonable allowance for increase or decrease. A series of strong resolutions on the abuses of the impressment law were referred. A bill to repeal the act of the 27th April last. This act allows the impressing officers to appeal to the decision of local appraisers to the rates fixed by the State Commissioners; referred.

The session in the House to-day was very short. Absent members are arriving.

FROM THE UNITED STATES—LINCOLN'S MESSAGE.

RICHMOND, Dec. 13th, 1863.

The New York Herald, of the 10th, says that Lincoln's message makes five columns. The first part of the message is unimportant, and briefly adverts to the maintenance of the neutrality of England and France, the rights of aliens, and other minor subjects. In regard to the finances it says the operations of the treasury last year were successfully conducted. The receipts from all sources were nine hundred and one millions, and the disbursements eight hundred and ninety five millions. Since the emancipation proclamation was issued, the rebel borders have been pressed further back by the complete opening of the Mississippi.—The country dominated by rebellion has been divided into two distinct parts. Tennessee and Arkansas have been cleared of insurgent control, and influential citizens of each declare openly for emancipation. Of those who were slaves at the beginning of the rebellion a hundred thousand is now in the United States military service, who are as good soldiers as any. The emancipation measure has improved the tone of public sentiment abroad and at home. It has been fully discussed, supported and denounced. The elections, however, have resulted highly encouraging to the administration. Looking to the resumption of the national authority in rebel States, he issued the proclamation in which he believes nothing was attempted beyond what is justified by the Constitution. The form of oath is given, but no man coerced to take it, only promised pardon in case he voluntarily takes it. The constitutionality and expediency of the proclamation and accompanying oath is discussed at some length. Lincoln says while he remains in his present position he shall not attempt to retract or modify his Emancipation proclamation, nor return to slavery any person free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress. In the concluding paragraph, Lincoln trusts Congress will omit no fair opportunity of aiding these important steps to consummation, but must not lose sight of the fact that the war power is still our main reliance. The proclamation is appended to the message.—

The preamble refers to the powers of the President to grant reprieves and pardons, to the existence of rebellion and treason in the several States, and to the laws of Congress, the proclamations of the President confiscating property and liberating slaves, and finally to the desire of some persons heretofore engaged in said rebellion to resume their allegiance to the United States and reinaugerate loyal State Governments. He therefore proclaims full pardon is granted to all participants in the rebellion, with the restoration of their rights in property, except slaves, upon condition that they take the oath, the form of which is prescribed, to faithfully support the constitution of the United States and the Union of the States thereunder and all acts of Congress and the proclamations of the President in reference to slaves, until modified or declared void. All prominent officials of the Confederate Government, officers in the army above the rank of Colonel and others, are mentioned and excepted from the benefit of the pardon. He further proclaims that whenever one-tenth of the qualified voters of any State in rebellion, after taking said oath, shall re-establish the State Government, they shall be reorganized as the true Government of the State.

The Herald concludes that Lincoln's plan will be a failure, and expresses the hope that a discussion of it will lead to some satisfactory half way house to rest.

YANKEE RAID IN VIRGINIA—CAPTURE OF CONFEDERATE CAVALRY.

RICHMOND Dec. 14. 1863

It is reported that Averill, with a heavy force of cavalry and mounted infantry, is advancing in the direction of Lewisburg. It is supposed he will make a raid on the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad if not prevented by a counter movement.

From the Peninsula we have information of the capture of two companies of cavalry in New Kent by the Yankees. The leader of the party which captured the Chesapeake is Henry Braine, second officer, and Lt. Burr, one of Morgan's men.

Mr. Adler, of Baltimore, was killed in Caroline county by Lt. Dorsey, of the Maryland cavalry.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND Dec. 14th, 1863.

Lincoln's proclamation is universally laughed at and scorned, and will prove revolting even to reconstructionists.

An important correspondence between the President and Gen. Joe Johnston, relative to Bragg's removal, was read in the House to-day, by Mr. Swann, of Tennessee, from which it appears that, on the 24th November, 1862, Johnston was ordered to the supreme command of the whole Western Department, with his headquarters at Chattanooga. On the 22d January, 1863, the President ordered him to repair to Bragg's headquarters and decide upon the best interests of the service, and give advice. Johnston inspects the army, and reports to the President that the troops are all in high spirits and ready for a fight, with confidence unabated, and thinks Bragg's operations evinced vigor and skill, and that it would be very unfortunate to remove him, and that the best interests of the service require that he be retained. The operations of the army of the west involving generalship, Pemberton, Bragg and Johnston were much discussed among the members. A memorial from the Georgia Relief Hospital Association, asking Congress to devise a plan to facilitate the claims of soldiers' widows, as this matter is greatly behind, and Congress should do something to hasten its adjustment,—referred to a special committee of five. The House passed a resolution of thanks to the heroic defenders of Sabine Pass. A bill was presented to allow the funding of treasury notes not now fundable; referred. A resolution was presented instructing the committee on military affairs to inquire into the expediency of appointing veterinary surgeons in the army. Gen. Lee, Gov. Harris and General Cobb were invited to seats on the floor of the Senate.—The committee on military affairs reported a bill that all white men, residents of the Confederate States, between sixteen and fifty-five, be declared in the military service—All between sixteen and eighteen, and forty-five and fifty five, to belong to the reserve corps, and between eighteen and forty-five to field service—any existing organizations of non-conscripts permitted to join the reserve corps. It repeals all laws granting exemptions, and none hereafter to be exempt except they are unfit for military service, ministers of the Gospel, Superintendents of Asylums, one editor to each newspaper, printers, physicians and apothecaries. The bill was placed on the calendar to be taken up in its turn. Johnson, of Georgia, presented a bill to repeal that portion of the impressment act which provides for State Commissioners to fix prices. Referred to the Judiciary Committee. Both houses of the Virginia Legislature passed a resolution to adjourn next Monday until the sixth of January.

SINKING OF THE YANKEE MONITOR WEEHAWKEN.

SAVANNAH, Dec. 14th, 1863.

The Free South, published at Beaufort, reports the loss of the Yankee Monitor Weehawken, near Charleston harbor, during the gale of the sixth inst. Over 20 of her crew went down with her.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 14th, 1863.

No firing to-day and nothing unusual, except that we have one Monitor less to fight. An official dispatch from Gen. Walker, at Pocotaligo, Dec. 14th, says the Yankee paper Free South, published at Port Royal, received by flag of truce, contains the report of the sinking of the Monitor Weehawken in the gale off Charleston harbor, on Monday Dec. 7th; 23 lives were lost.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 15th, 1863.

No firing last night. All quiet this morning.

FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec. 14th, 1863.

The main body of our army remains at Rogersville, and Longstreet's headquarters are at that place. Large droves of hogs and cattle are being gathered up in East Tennessee by our cavalry. Burnside is reported marching towards Cumberland Gap, but nothing official is known in regard to it.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 15th, 1863.

The enemy fired fourteen shells at the city this morning. Seven buildings were struck, but nobody injured. Our batteries replied. No firing on Sumter, and no new movement on the part of the enemy.

GEORGIA LEGISLATURE.

MILLEDGEVILLE, Dec. 15th, 1863.

The Legislature adjourned *sine die* last night at 12 o'clock. The appropriations amount to over fourteen millions, of which six millions were for soldiers' families; two millions to clothe the Georgia troops; three million for a military fund; one million for the public debt; half a million for the Georgia Relief Hospital Association; one million for blockade running for supplies for the army, and about one million for general State expenses.

REPORT OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL.

RICHMOND, Dec. 15th, 1863.

The report of the Postmaster General shows that the revenues of that department, from the sale of stamps and postage letters, amount to over three millions, and postage on newspapers, one hundred and eighty-eight thousand; amount paid to contractors for carrying the mails, over three hundred and fifty-two thousand, and paid to Rail Roads five hundred and sixty thousand dollars. The whole number of dead letters, containing valuables, three thousand seven hundred and twenty-five, and containing money and checks, more than seven hundred thousand. Of these nearly three thousand have been returned to the writers, while for some seven hundred, containing over fifteen hundred dollars, no owner has been found. The number of letters dropped into post offices without paying postage, and sent to the dead letter office, is thirty-one thousand.

LATE NORTHERN AND EUROPEAN NEWS.

RICHMOND, VA., Dec. 15th, 1863.

United States journals of the 12th, states that according to Chase's figures and estimates, the national debt will amount on the first July, 1864 to sixteen hundred and eighty-seven millions, on the first of July, 1865, to twenty-two hundred and thirty-two millions of dollars.

The captured steamer Chesapeake called off the harbor of St. Johns' and took on board Captain Parker, of the privateer Retribution, who took command. The latest advices represent her near Cape Sable.

Banks arrived in New Orleans on the 3d inst., from Brazos. No further news concerning the expedition.

Official reports show a deficiency in the corn crop of the United States of one hundred and forty millions of bushels.

The avails of the draft, so far as ascertained, are sixty thousand men and twelve millions of dollars.

The Navy Department has thirteen vessels in pursuit of the Chesapeake.

Gen. Comonfort was killed near San Luis Potosi in a fight with Juarez's troops. The French had possession of Queretaro. The Juarez Government is powerless and anarchy reigns within its jurisdiction.

Lincoln has pardoned E. W. Garett, of Arkansas, from the penalty of treason, for accepting office of Brig. Gen. in the rebel service.

The steamship Canada has arrived at Halifax with Liverpool dates to the 28th. The steamer Rappahannock, one of the four vessels lately sold in England to the Confederates, sailed from Sheerness on the 24th to Calais, in an unfinished state. She had a gang of carpenters aboard, and is pierced for eight guns. She was seized by the French Custom House authorities but subsequently released. The French deficit, owing to the Mexican and Chinese war, is reported to be ten millions of pounds.

Two divisions of the Prussian army are under orders to take the field. The Wurtemburg Government urges the immediate occupation of Holstein. Polish affairs are unchanged. Dispatches from India announce the illness of Lord Elgin; no hope of his recovery. The Times says that the British Cabinet has declined to join the proposed Congress.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Dec. 15, 1863.

A highly important debate took place in the House, on the impressment law, the Supreme Court of Georgia having, in a recent decision, declared that, when impressments were made, their value must be ascertained by disinterested appraisers in the locality. The Judiciary Committee this morning reported a bill repealing that part of the law which provides for State Commissioners to fix prices, and specifying that local appraisers shall always fix the price, and repealing the act of April last. After a lengthy debate it was finally referred back to the Judiciary Committee.

The Military Committee reported back the Senate bill to prevent the reception of substitutes hereafter, with a slight amendment, which, after a long debate, was unanimously adopted, and sent at once to the Senate. During the discussion an important amendment was offered, that all principals and substitutes be held liable to service, which was rejected by yeas 30, nays 39. This, however, is no evidence of the sentiments of the members on the subject of putting the principals in the army, on which their minds are unsettled. The subject will come up for future action on its merits.

Leave was granted the special committee of finance to meet while the House was in session.

A special committee was appointed to devise a plan to facilitate the settlement of the claims of soldiers' widows.

The Senate had a short session. The committee on postal affairs reported a bill for the appointment of an assistant Postmaster General beyond the Mississippi, and creating the office of third Auditor in accordance with the President's recommendation.

FROM BRISTOL.

BRISTOL, Dec 15, 1863.

The situation remains unchanged in front. Some two hundred of those wounded at Knoxville have arrived here. Lt. Gus. Magee, of Morgan's staff, who escaped with him, has arrived in Russell county, *en route* for Richmond. He left Gen. Morgan at Cincinnati, and is satisfied that he is safe in our lines.

For the Journal.

HEADQUARTERS 3d, N. C. INFANTRY.

The following is a list of casualties of the 3d Regiment N. C. Infantry, Col. S. D. Thruston, commanding in the late battle near Bartlett's Mills, Va., November the 27th, 1863:

Company A—Lieut Joe Darden, commanding.
Killed—J T Aldridge.
Wounded—Lieut Joe Darden, Privates J H Aldridge, B B Britt, W H Hamm, J R Hill, L J Rouse.
Company B—Capt J B Brown, commanding.
Killed—None.
Wounded—Lieut Geo W Ward, Corpl J D Bachelor; Privates Edward Hall, in hands of the enemy and supposed to be dead; W D Chambers, W C Gavin, Martin Sumner, for duty; Wm Davis, for duty; B W Drew, for duty.
Missing—Privates J B Cattle, Amos Edwards, L F Nethercut, C P Robinson.
Company C—Capt H W Horne, commanding.
Killed—None.
Wounded—Privates J B Arnett, since died; John Bailey, W S Fisher, D L Grimes, Wm Johnson, A L Ledbetter, S R Tolar.
Missing—Private John H Pridgeon.
Company D—Capt Jno Cowan, commanding.
Killed—Corpl Wm H Hanchey.
Wounded—Privates L Allen, Robt S Best, J W Carter, seriously; J P Davis, J M Flemming, W Heathcock, Luke Kornegay, Asa Rouse.
Missing—J W Harris, L J Musgrave.
Company E—Lieut J W Stokley, commanding.
Killed—Lieut J P Dates.
Wounded—Sergt Siglee Redd, Corpls W H Jenkins, Bill Williams, Privates James Bruce, J T Edens, mortally; F Hardison, H J Farr, S E King, R Weston, R W Yopp, U Jenkins.
Missing—Private A L Cox.
Company F—Lieut J J Pickett, commanding.
Killed—Privates Stephen Davis, J H Bradshaw.
Wounded—Ed Craige, Geo Montgomery, Thos Floyd, J L Hancock, John Morgan, Joseph Byrd, slight; D Bell, W Wright.
Missing—Privates H Jarrell, Levin Charles.
Company G—Capt E H Armstrong, commanding.
Killed—None.
Wounded—Lieut Jas F Clark, Sergts D C Hill, L A Avery, Corpl Jno Sammons, Privates A Capps, R Meadows, E B Robinson, B Reese, R R Speight, J F Winberry, S F Hewitt, G C Biggs, J Hollerman, Albert Rich.
Missing—James Sheppard, wounded.
Company H—Lieut Z H Lowdermilk, commanding.
Killed—H McGee.
Wounded—Privates D McMillan, J M Braddy, T B Jones, Corpl H Everitt.
Missing—J A L Campbell, J C A Campbell, W A Mahaffey, L L Stone, Abram Sizemore.
Company I— ——, commanding.
Killed—None.
Wounded—Corpl W S Flynn, Privates G Reddish, W R Glenn, S H Belvin, R H Hutspeth, M Perdue.
Missing—A Brown.
Company K— ——, commanding.
Killed—None.
Wounded—Privates Jno Walton, S C Watkins.
Missing—Jos Piner, Geo Pool, —— Allen.

RECAPITULATION:

Killed and died of wounds	9
Wounded	71
Missing	20
Total	100

Very Respectfully,
your obedient servant,
C. P. MALLETT,
1st Lieut. and Act'g Adj't,
3d Reg't. N. C. Infantry.

Acknowledgement.

NORTH CAROLINA DEPOT,
Richmond, Va., Dec. 10th, 1863.

The undersigned begs leave to acknowledge the receipt of four hundred and twenty-three dollars and fifty cents, by the hands of Captain E. F. Shaw, Co. C, 63d N. C. Regiment, contributed by the Ladies of Franklin Institute, Duplin county, N. C., for the benefit of North Carolina Soldiers detained in this city.

The amount has been placed in the hands of Assistant Surgeon J. W. Bennett, in charge of the North Carolina Soldiers Home, and will be strictly devoted to the purpose designed by the donors.

O. F. MANSON,
General Medical Agent for the State of N. C.

Appointment of the Preachers of the North Carolina Conference of the Methodist E. Church, for the ensuing year.

RALEIGH DISTRICT, N. F. RIED, P. E.
Raleigh Station—B. Craven, Wm. H. Wheeler, nom.
" City Mission, Alex. R. Raven.
" Colored Chapel, W. E. Pell.
" Circuit, G. P. Moore.
Louisburg—Thos. W. Guthrie.
Tar River—T. Page Ricaurd,
Person—John Tillett.
Hillsboro'—W. C. Wilson.
" Circuit—W. M. Jordan, W. Harriss, nom.
General Missionary to Dep't N. C.—Wm. Closs.
" " to Cape Fear—J. N. Andrews.
Missionary Chaplain to Hokes' Brigade—J. J. Hines.
" " Clingman's " J. B. Alford.
" " Lane's " to be supplied.
Chaplain to 12th Reg't N. C. Troops—J. H. Robbins.
" 22d " " F. H. Wood.
" 30th " " A. D. Betts.
" 44th " " R. S. Webb.
" 46th " " E. C. Dodson.
" 48th " " C. Plyler.
" 56th " " to be supplied.
" 32d " " W. B. Richardson.
" 7th Cavalry—J. D. Buie.
GREENSBORO' DISTRICT, PETER DOUB, P. E.
Greensboro'—Joel W. Tucker.
Guilford—Z. Rush.
Forsythe—One to be supplied, D. W. Doub, C. M.
Anderson—Nom.
Winston—J. W. Jenkins.
Stokes—R. N. T. Stevenson, S. H. Helsabeck.
Madison—Jas. E. Mann.
Wentworth—W. C. Gannon.
Yanceyville—P. G. Carraway.
Leesburg—J. P. Simpson.
Agent for Greensboro' Female College—John S. Long.
R. T. Heflin, transferred to Texas Conference.
M. L. Wood, Missionary to China.
TRINITY COLLEGE DISTRICT, WM. BARRINGER, P. E.
Trinity College and High Point—J. W. Lewis.
Ashboro'—C. H. Philips.
Franklinsville—I. H. Hill, J L. Troy, nom.
Uharrie—J. F. Kerans.
Davidson—C. M. Pepper.
Thomasville and Lexington—N. H. D. Wilson.
South Guilford—C. W. King.
Alamance—W. H. Barnes.
SALISBURY DISTRICT, IRA T. WYCHE, P. E.
Salisbury—D. R. Bruton.
Rowan—J. A. Cunningin.
East Rowan—J. R. Brooks.
Mocksville—R. G. Barrett.
Iredell—W. D. Mecham, W. W. Albea, nom.
South Iredell—L. W. Way.
Alexander—Carson Parker.
Jonesville—J. F. Smoot.
Wilkes—T. S. Triplett.
Surry—To be supplied.
Elkin—M. B. Sherrill.
Sauratown—To be supplied.
Statesville—J. B. Bobbitt, C. P. Jones, nom.
WASHINGTON DISTRICT, L. L. HENDREW, P. E.
(Washington, Avent Chapel, Bath, Matamuskeet, Neuse, Columbia, Portsmouth, Oracoke and Hatteras, and Plymouth to be supplied.)
Roanoke—T. B. Kingsbury, N. A. H. Goddin, nom.
Warren—Lemon Shell, T. B. Beeks, sup.; B. F. Long, nom.
Warrenton—J. B. Williams.
Henderson—J. H. Wheeler, senior; Jas. Reid, nom.
Granville—T. W. Moore.
Nashville—M. J. Hunt.
Tarboro—E. A. Yates.
Greenville—E. A. Wilson.
NEWBERN DISTRICT, C. F. DEEMS, P. E.
(Newbern, Centenary, Andrew Chapel and Circuit to be supplied.)
Trent—W. F. Clegg.
Beaufort—Ann Street, John Jones.
(Purvis Chapel, Straits, Cape Lookout and Morehead City, to be supplied.)
Jones' Mission—W. M. Walsh.
Kinston and Lenoir—N. A. Hooker.
Snow Hill—Joseph Wheeler.
Wilson—James W. Wheeler.
Goldsboro—A. W. Mangum.
Everettsville—D. C. Johnson, Geo. W. Deems, nom.
Smithfield—L. S. Burkhead.
Contentnea—B. B. Culbreth.
Agent for Soldiers Tract Association—M. C. Thomas.
L. W. Martin, in the lines of the enemy.
WILMINGTON DISTRICT, D. B. NICHOLSON, P. E.
Wilmington—Front Street, R. S. Moran; Fifth Street Mission, S. D. Peeler.
Topsail and North Hanover—W. H. Moore.
Onslow—W. A. Smith.
Duplin and Magnolia—J. B. Thomas.
Sampson—W. S. Roby, Dan'l Culbreth, nom.
Bladen—J. B. Bayley.
South River Mission—R. P. Bibb.
Elizabethtown—S. M. Frost.
Whiteville—J. H. Dally.
Smithville—T. J. Gattis, W. M. D. Moore, nom.
Cape Fear Mission—To be supplied.
FAYETTEVILLE DISTRICT, W. H. BOBBITT, P. E.
Fayetteville—H. T. Hudson.
Evans Chapel—To be supplied.
Fayetteville Circuit—J. W. Tinin.
Cape Fear—W. S. Chaffin, G. Farrar, nom.
Haw River—J. B. Martin.
Pittsboro—O. J. Brent.
Deep River—S. D. Adams, T. C. Moses, nom.
Rockingham—H. H. Gibbons.
Montgomery—J. W. Avant.
Troy—G. E. Wycle.
Robeson—P. H. Scoville.
Chapel Hill—R. A. Willis.
Next Conference to be held at Mocksville, Davie county, North Carolina.

☞ The Russians in New York were treated to a "feast of reason" the other day, but if there was any "flow of soul," it never came from the Yankee side of the banquet. There is so little soul amongst them, it never flows. The Journal of Commerce says the party consumed 12,000 oysters, 2,000 of them pickled; twelve monster salmons, weighing thirty pounds each; 1,200 game birds; 250 turkeys; 400 chickens 1,000 pounds tenderloin; 100 pyramids of pastry; 1,000 loaves of bread and 3,500 bottles of wine.

The Scheme of the Secretary of the Treasury for the Relief of the Finances of the Government and the Improvement of the Confederate Currency.

The following is the scheme suggested by Mr. Memminger, in his report to Congress, for the relief of the Government finances and the improvement of the Confederate currency, which, notwithstanding the crowded condition of our columns, we present to our readers.

Rich. Dispatch.

SCHEME PROPOSED.

1. That Congress forthwith authorize a loan of $1,000,000,000 in six per cent. bonds, the principal payable in twenty years, the interest semi-annually; to be extended hereafter, from time to time, so as to consolidate the whole public debt.

2. That the Secretary of the Treasury be authorized to sell at par as many of the said bonds as will be sufficient to take up the outstanding currency and to pay the appropriations made by Congress.

3. That deposits of Treasury notes on account of the said loan may be received at the Treasury or any of its depositories, or by Commissioners to be appointed; said deposits to be in sums of one hundred dollars, or in sums of which one hundred is a perfect divisor.

4. Certificates shall be issued for such deposits, which shall entitle the holder to bonds for the amount, with interest from the date of deposit. If the deposit be made in the month of January, the bonds issued for same shall be exempt from the tax of 5 per cent., for the present year, hereinafter mentioned; if made in the month of February, they shall be exempt from one-half of the tax; and if made in the month of March, they shall be exempt from one-fourth of the said tax. Officers, soldiers and seamen, in service, shall be entitled to exemption from the whole tax for sums paid at any time before April 1st, 1864.

5. A tax of five per cent. shall be imposed on all property and credits (other than the new issue of notes hereinafter mentioned), which may be held on the 1st of April next, to be paid on the 1st of July, one half in Treasury notes and one half in coin or in the coupons of the bonds issued for the loan.

6. In case the coupons should advance in the market to a premium exceeding 25 per cent., any tax payer shall be permitted to pay his tax in treasury notes of the new issue with 25 per cent. added.

7. Within six months a new and improved issue shall be made of two hundred millions of treasury notes, in substitution for that amount of old issues, and all the old issues shall be cancelled, and the faith of the Government is pledged not to issue said issues.

8. Notice shall be given to holders of treasury notes, (other than the said two hundred millions) requiring them to present their notes at the Treasury, or at some of the depositories, on or before the 1st day of April next, and receive payment thereof in bonds of said consolidated loan, or in default thereof the notes not so brought in shall cease to be current or receivable at the Treasury for dues, but shall remain evidences of debt payable by the Confederate States according to their tenor.

9. In the States beyond the Mississippi the time mentioned in the first clause shall be extended until the 1st day of July.

10. Six months after notice to bondholders all holders of Treasury notes to come in and register and verify their notes as demands against the Treasury, and exchange the same for certificates of debt; or if they prefer to keep the notes the name of the holder shall be endorsed thereon, after which said notes shall be negotiable only by special assignment, and all notes not so registered within the same time shall be barred from any further claim on the government.

11. Any holder of a bond of the Confederate States may convert the same into one of the bonds under this loan, the 8 per cent. bonds at par, and the others of a proportionate rate, and the bonds of the several series so as to absorb all bonds which may be offered in exchange.

12. The interest coupons of this loan shall be held equivalent to specie in all future dealings of the Government, and shall be accepted in payment of any tax hereafter made payable in coin.

13. The faith of the Government is pledged to make adequate provision for the payment of the principal and interest of the said loan by the continuance of the tax mentioned in article 5, until a census shall be taken, after which like provision shall be made by direct taxes or by duties on imports and exports.

14. The notes of denominations of $5 shall not be affected by the provisions of this scheme.

The Siege of Charleston—A Northern View of the Prospect.

The following, from the Philadelphia *Inquirer*, shows how the delay in the siege of Charleston is regarded by the enemy, and indicates the disappointment, settling into hopelessness, which their failure to take the city has naturally produced:

MILITARY AFFAIRS IN CHARLESTON.

By the arrival of the Fulton we have Charleston dates to the 20th. While nothing decisive has been accomplished by our forces in that locality, several events have transpired during the past week of more than ordinary interest. Charleston has been shelled for the third time by Gillmore's guns at Cumming's Point. On the morning of the 17th instant, twenty-one percussion shells were fired at the city, nineteen of which fell in the most populous part of the town. The damage produced by this bombardment is unknown, though the Charleston papers have since reported it as not material. It is said at Morris Island that Gillmore intends to continue this bombardment from day to day, and by this means, if possible, destroy the city, unless the rebels conclude to surrender.

This method of destroying the city, however, will be a very tedious if not impracticable one, both because of the distance of Charleston from Cummings' Point, and the constant liability of guns to burst at so great an elevation as is required to reach the city. If the Greek fire shells had only proved themselves as effective as was hoped, the destruction of Charleston by fire would long since have been accomplished. But we hear no more of Greek fire. Its reputation, if not its trial, has proved itself *contemptible*. The shells now thrown into Charleston, are the ordinary percussion shell, and the damage inflicted by such a bombardment can best be judged by considering the siege of Vicksburg, which notwithstanding the thousands of shells thrown into it by our land and naval forces, was never forced to a surrender by such bombardment nor totally destroyed.

Therefore, as affairs now stand at Charleston, we believe that the capture or reduction of that city depends upon a closer approach of our land or naval forces. How the land forces can at present advance any nearer to the city is a matter of great doubt. Gillmore must hold Morris Island, as it is the key to the harbor, and absolutely essential to any further success in that vicinity. He must also keep possession of Folly Island, which is, as it were his base of operations, and also the adjacent islands—Long Island, Coles, Kiawah, Seabrook, Black and Edisto—which immediately threaten it. That Gillmore has force enough to retain these positions is not doubted, but that he can, in addition to this, make an overland demonstration against Charleston, no one acquainted at all with the configuration of the country, and the resources of Beauregard with which to repel such an advance, can for a moment believe.

Gillmore has done all that is reasonable for us to expect of him with his present force. He has not only destroyed Sumter and shelled Charleston, but he has accomplished that which is even a greater injury to the South, namely: the perfect blockade of the harbor.—He is also ready at any time to co-operate with any demonstrations by Dahlgren against either the obstructions in the channel or any of the fortifications in the harbor.

While, therefore, it is a pleasing variation of the monotony into which the siege has relapsed, to hear that Gillmore has again shelled Charleston, still it is upon Dahlgren that all future success in that locality must rest. For the past month he has been recovering his health, and we rejoice as much now to hear that we have our Admiral in good health as we lamented before because our Admiral was sick.

Now that Dahlgren's health is excellent, we naturally expect that an attempt at least will be made by him to force his way into the harbor of Charleston; or, at least, let him proceed far enough to find out what kind of obstructions are in the channel, or whether there are any at all. Time is not more precious anywhere to our success than at Charleston harbor. The rebels have been constantly erecting batteries under the very guns of Dahlgren's fleet. Last week, in the night time, they opened with a new battery of seven guns on Sullivan's Island, and shelled Gillmore's batteries on Cumming's Point most furiously. It is supposed that the rebels expected an assault would be made upon Sumter. Accordingly, they kept up a furious cannonade upon Gillmore's batteries, while they landed a heavy force in the ruins of the fort.

The same night, also, the Monitor Lehigh ran aground near Sullivan's Island, and being unable to get off, she was exposed to a heavy fire in the morning from the rebel batteries. Through the bravery, however, of a boat's crew from the Nahant, she was finally extricated from her danger, and has since "gone to Port Royal for repairs." In fact, going to Port Royal for repairs is a very favorite pastime with the monitors at Charleston. It might be a difficult question to decide whether the monitors will ever get as near to Charleston as they have to Port Royal. The people can also, without the slightest malice, ask Dahlgren whether he intends to permanently run the monitors aground, or send them at stated periods to Port Royal for repairs? The public demand a trial of the monitors, and can see no reason for the delay of the experiment.

There is, on the contrary, every reason why it should be made and made soon. The rebels are strenuously fortifying every available point which commands the channel. Already Beauregard has increased to a great extent, his forces in and around the beleaguered city. Gilmore, having performed his allotted portion of the seige, is ready and anxious to help Dahlgren to a trial of his. The commanders of the monitors are all brave men; the crews are ready for an action so glorious. Everything and everybody seems to await upon Dahlgren. The people, recollecting the brilliant and dashing attack of Dupont last April, have become disgusted with this unseemly delay, which is weekly apologized for by "bad health," "best of terms with General Gilmore," "Monitors at Port Royal for repairs," and something stirring from the fleet soon." Action is demanded. The country wishes to know whether it has been and is spending its money in the right class of iron clads, or whether the monitors are two-thirds humbug for the reduction of fortifications.

A Trip on the Mississippi—Yankees and Confederates as Travelling Companions.

A correspondent of the Mobile Advertiser furnishes that paper with an interesting account of a trip up the Mississippi. It shows that the people of the two nations are as distinct as if they had never lived together and experienced the mutual pleasure of fleecing and being fleeced.

On Friday we took passage from Memphis on the beautiful river palace Belle Memphis. How quickly was the line of demarkation drawn between the two classes—Northern and Southern; the former overbearing and inquisitive, the latter independent but cautious. Fortunately quite a number of the old dwellers of the sunny South were on board, and we had a pleasant little coterie of our own, and among ourselves talked over the topic nearest our hearts, while searching Yankee eyes beamed at our party with suspicion. It is surprising how soon each finds his own party element, and even on this Government boat how rapidly the opposing elements of society discover and heartily hate each their with mutual bitterness. There is but little association between the oppressor and the oppressed the latter with dignified *hauteur* evading the aggressive advances of the other. From the lips of the party on the opposite side of the cabin composed chiefly of officers wives, we frequently catch such eloquently malignant language observations as "dirty secesh;" "wish the guerillas would let flicker and hit them, and one woman, whose little girl was nearing our party, cried out—"Come back here, you little devil! don't I tell you these are the dirty secesh' that broke up the Union and burne the boats?" Without giving evidence of hearing their language, the little party of patriots conversed on in whispers, like a small band of Italians in Venice while under the searching eye of the Austrian oppressor. True, this is submission to the tyrant's power, but the deep sentiment of hatred which is revealed in the gleaming eye, betokens the presence of that spirit of patriotism which will yet nerve each arm to strike once more for liberty! When the supper-table has been cleared, an excellent negro stringband strikes up the enlivening air of our "Dixie," and the festive dance begins. It is observable that each party introduces its members in the dance, and the same stern *hauteur* is observed, which permits of no compromise between these embittered enemies. Sharp anomaly—they dance but will not speak! The subjected party waits until the vile Yankee oppressors have locked themselves within their state rooms and then the dulcet tones of Southern girls ring out upon the midnight air the inspiriting "Southrons hear your country call you;" and having thus given vent to their pent-up feelings, and expressed their gratification, each, with a warm shake of the hand, bids the other good night. There is a bond between them stronger than friendship—a sympathy in their oppression; the high resolve of patriotism; a faith strong as life itself, that the day of their disenthralment draws nigh, and that their release will be the signal for them to wreak vengeance upon the oppressors.

But few Yankee officers are traveling upon the boats, and fortunately they do not often inflict their hated presence upon those who are quarted in the ladies' cabin, but show their mean instincts by walking around behind and peeping in at the windows, just as when, in the South, they go to the negro quarters or admit themselves at the back entrance—a sense of their own meanness restraining them from acting as *white* people. A special Government agent is on board each boat for the purpose of examining baggeage, and a rigid search is made for silver ware, more especially, as the Yankees have a presentiment that large quantities of family plate owned by rebels are sent northward to relatives for safety. So when silver ware is discovered the unlucky possessor becomes dispossessed, and is informed that metallic charms are especially pleasing to "the Government." Without misstatement this is actually the principal incentive for keeping such agents upon the boats. In coming down the river all goods are taxed 5 per cent., and care is taken that no smuggling is carried on, both baggage and state room berths being carefully examined. A lady bringing with her goods which are not made up, subjects them to confiscation. Those who are wise are careful to oversee the examination of their baggage, or they will find such little valueless articles as money, gold and jewels, very apt to take flight with the honest agent agent of his country. No passports or papers of any kind are required in order to travel the river; but any intimation that you are from the "land of cotton, persimmon seed, and sandy bottom," will insure a careful watch of your proceedings by some of the innumerable detective force.

Fort Pillow, I observed, in coming up, was completely dismantled, and but little remains to recall the formidable fortress which once forbade the navigation of the Mississippi. A regiment or so of cavalry are quartered somewhere in the vicinity for the purpose of keeping guerillas from halting the boats at such a favorable point for their operations. Wonderful stories are related to you on board the boats of the action of these bands, and a wholesome fear prevails that each boat will prove the next victim. To such great an extent does this prevail, together with the effects of boat burning, that all who can avoid travelling on the river, and there are but few who do not take the railroad from St. Louis to Cairo with an idea to personal safety. Whenever a man on horseback is observed upon the bank of the river the fears of Captain and passengers arise and are not quieted until the frightful object is safely passed.

The famous Island No. 10 has degenerated from one of freedom's watch towers to a negro colony. Here the subjects of the "peculiar institution" have been peculiarly treated by the Yankee powers. This barren sand bar is the real *bona fide* Garden of Eden of the negroes, where Abolition equality and Yankee philanthropy display themselves under the most favorable aspects. An encampment of about one hundred and fifty tents, spreading itself over the entire length of the Island, is inhabited by an average of seven hundred contrabands, who are furnished by the Government with rations and clothing, and by certain Abolition Christian societies with white teachers.

Large numbers of boats ply the river, and there is really so little opposition met that from Memphis to St. Louis navigation is safe to a greater degree than it should be.

☞ Some of the Madrid journals publish the following strange account:—"The town of Pampelnna was a few days back the scene of a fearful incident. A lion belonging to a traveling manegerie escaped from its cage and rushed through the streets, attacking every one that it met. Three persons were killed by the terrible animal, and about a dozen received injuries. The number of victims would have been more considerable if the lion had not perceived a butcher's shop, into which it sprang, enticed by the meat displayed at the door. The butcher had the presence of mind to close his shop, and the owner of the lion being informed of the detention of the animal, fetched one of his cages and applied it to the shop door. The lion being satisfied rushed out as soon as the door was opened, and was caught in the cage as in a trap.

Rail Road Accident.—We understand that an accident, involving a considerable loss of property, occurred on the Wilmington and Manchester Rail Road, on Monday afternoon. A train of cars from Wilmington or Augusta, principally laden with coffee, whiskey, and a general assortment of blockade goods, was passing over Green swamp Bridge, near Sumter Court House, when, after the engine and five cars had safely crossed, the bridge gave way, and the seven remaining cars were precipitated into the swamp, a distance of fifteen feet, crushing the cars and distributing the contents in every direction. More real coffee" has been drank in that neighborhood within a few days, than for a long time previously. *Charleston Courier.*

The Seige of Charleston—A Heroless Yankee Account of It.

The New York Times has a long editorial upon the siege of Charleston, which is exceedingly cheerful reading to the Confederate public. We copy it entire:

For several months the advices from the vicinity of Charleston have uniformly been to the effect that we should soon have the gratification of announcing its fall; Fort Sumter was battered to pieces, and must surrender without delay; and the public heart has been made sick with deferred hope until now it has ceased to believe any predictions of the capture or demolition of Charleston.

Fort Sumter, we will venture to say, will not be taken by the present line of approach and mode of operation. And what military object is to be gained by its capture? We already perfectly command the entrance to the harbor, so that blockade running has entire ceased; we would command it no better were Sumter in our possession. Nor, if captured, would it be practicable to put there the heavy guns that would be needed to operate upon Charleston; for they could not well be transported to the ruin and mounted, under the fire of the numerous rebel batteries that line Sullivan's Island and Fort Johnson. Even if guns were successfully placed in position, we would be but five hundred yards nigher the city than now; and Parrott rifles throw into it with perfect ease from Cummings' Point, where they are already established. Nor does it seem that Sumter can be so easily taken as some have thought. Not only are Fort Johnson and the works on Sullivan's Island armed with very heavy batteries, but the shores of the city and even its wharves are mounted with the heaviest guns in possession of the Confederates. Against these the army has no power whatever to act. One assault has already been made upon the ruin with very unsatisfactory results—the whole party fell into a decided trap, and any other would probably share the same fate. Although harmless for the offence, it still has resistive power of a strong character. The lower tier of casemates cannot be destroyed; for the rubbish of the upper tiers of the work have so covered them that even the heaviest shell have no power to penetrate to them A few men, comparatively, can still so shelter themselves that no assaulting party can find cover from their deadly—because close—fire, and artillery addded to this, would make the ruins of Sumter but little safer than the crater of a volcano. Success in an assault is therefore very doubtful, and it would be folly to run the exceeding risk of a failure when success can give no decided military advantage. We may chafe and fret because our flag is not hoisted over those battered walls; but disaster could annoy and damage us more, and assuredly the dictates of public opinion and feeling should not be followed when likely to lead to grief.

The further progress of operations in the harbor is now, as before, a question for the monitors. It was intended that they should pass these batteries—if they have not done so, certainly no fault can be found with Gen. Gillmore for the failure. And we do not believe that the monitors will undertake the task. The delays that have ensued since Sumter was deprived of its teeth seem to indicate that the future gives no promise of better fruition than the past. Let it be repeated—we doubt whether the monitors will attempt to run the gauntlet into Charleston harbor. All they can accomplish will be to burn Charleston; they cannot destroy the batteries that defend it, but they can burn the city—and Gen. Gillmore can certainly do that from Cumming's Point, without exposing our iron-clads to the prospect of loss. In fact, the blockade of Charleston harbor being perfect, any other game is not worth the powder, and the public may as well cease to expect any news of any such success as it has been been led to hope for.

And why should Charleston be burned? What military advantage would we gain by burning that abominable rebel city? Unless we can take possession of the ground on which it stands, we achieve or acquire nothing by its destruction. For assuredly in no case could we be guilty of any such atrocity as that recently perpetrated by the English against the unprotected Japanese city of Kagozima—where, merely to glut a wild and savage lust for vengeance, they suddenly opened their artillery upon, and battered or burned to the ground, a city of 150,000 inhabitants. Charleston is now probably about deserted of its population, and, were a bombardment necessary, it would result in a very limited loss of life; but even as regards property, we shall to the end carry on this war with a forbearance and magnanimity unparallelled in the annals of the world's wars.

When the batteries that surround it are destroyed, then Charleston will be surrendered; but to expect that the harbor and all the strong works around it, and the command of the indispensable railroads that centre at Charleston, will be given up to save the city, or will be yielded less readily after its destruction, is an idle and unfounded expectation. When a part of the great military advantage now held by the Confederates shall have been won by and transferred to us, then the safety of Charleston may be battered for the remainder. Until then let us wait patiently, particularly as there is no reasonable prospect of our impatience hastening the end for which we have so long and so vainly looked.

CAPTIONS OF ACTS AND RESOLUTIONS

PASSED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT ITS SECOND ADJOURNED SESSION, A. D. 1863.

1. An act to amend the act entitled "an act to consolidate the various acts heretfore passed to incorporate the town of Statesville in Iredell county.
2. An act to incorporate the Pettigrew Monument Association.
3. An act to amend the charter of the North Carolina Christian Advocate Joint Stock Publishing Company.
4. An act concerning the North Carolina Institute for the Deaf, Dumb and the Blind.
5. An act to amend an act entitled "an act for the relief of certain Banks of the State and the people.
6. An act to repeal the third section of an act entitled "an act to divide the State into two Congressional Districts.
7. An act concerning Rutherford Academy.
8. An act in relation to the compensation of the tax collector of Johnston county.
9. An act to amend section 85 chapter 34 of Revised Code.
10. An act to authorize A. J. McBride, Sheriff of Watauga county, to collect arrears of taxes.
11. An act to explain and amend section 68, chapter 107 of Revised Code.
12. An act concerning the Insane Asylum.
13. An act in relation to larceny and robbery.
14. An act to increase the pay of witnesses and jurors.
15. An act concerning imprisonments.
16. An act in relation to the Governor's Message.
17. An act to incorporate the town of Hickory Tavern, in the county of Catawba.
18. An act to incorporate the Fayetteville Kerosene Co.
19. An act to increase the fees of the Special Magistrate of the town of Wilmington
20. An act to incorporate the Lockville Mining and Manufacturing Company
21. An act to incorporate the Salem and High Point Plank Road company.
22. An act to incorporate the Pender Monument Association.
23. An act to amend an act entitled "Revenue," ratified the 11th day of February, 1863.
24. An act to incorporate the North Carolina Volunteer Navy Company.
25. An act in regard to the Mutual Insurance Company in Fayetteville.
26. An act concerning slave labor on public works.
27. An act to regulate the fees of the Clerks and Sheriff in the county of Guilford.
28. An act concerning Cherokee Lands.
29. An act in relation to depositions.
30. An act to amend an act approved 20th September, 1861, entitled Militia.
31. An act to authorize the courts of Oyer and Terminer.
32. An act to allow a fee to the Assistant Clerk in the Treasury for registration of State bonds.
33. An act explanatory of an act to admit proof of the handwriting of attesting witnesses in certain cases
34. An act to incorporate the Miners' Mining and Smelting Company.
35. An act to provide for the pay of Judges holding courts of Oyer and Terminer.
36. An act to incorporate the Trustees of the North Carolina Endowment Fund.
37. An act to repeal the 11th section of chapter 23 Revised Code.
38. An act in relation to the crime of arson.
39. An act to incorporate the North Carolina Express Company.
40. An act to amend the 9th section of chapter 101 Revised Code.
41. An act to regulate office hours in certain offices.
42. An act making appropriations for the military establishment of the State. [Appropriates one million six hundred and fifty thousand dollars—$1,650,000]
43. An act concerning the office of Sheriff and Clerk of the County Court of Cherokee county.
44. An act authorizing the Governor to accept the services of Cherokee Indians to repel invasion or insurrection.
45. An act to amend an act entitled "Revenue." [Taxes Express Companies five per cent. on gross receipts.]
46. An act to amend chapter 76 Revised Code entitled "Currency."
47. An act to amend an act in relation to the Militia and a Guard for Home Defence.
48. An act to restore the Courts and for other purposes.
49. An act for the relief of the wives and families of soldiers of the army. [Appropriates $1,000,000.]
50. An act further to define the duties of Treasurer of the Literary Fund and for other purposes
51. An act to exempt certain officers and employees of the State from conscription.
52. An act to incorporate the Comstock Mining and Smelting Company,
53. An act in relation to salaries and fees.
54. An act to amend an act ratified on the 11th day of February, 1863, entitled "Revenue." [Taxes Insurance Companies incorporated out of the State *three* per cent. on their gross receipts.]
55. An act to enforce the criminal laws of the State. [Authorizes trials for crimes committed in counties where Superior Courts cannot be held by reason of the presence or proximity of the enemy, before the Superior Courts of adjacent counties.]
56. An act to provide against a possible deficiency in the Treasury. [Authorises an issue of State Bonds, a sale of State Treasury Notes, or both, to the amount of $1,000,000]
57. An act making an appropriation to purchase cotton to be applied to purchases in Europe. [Appropriates $324 000]
58. An act to incorporate Palmyra Lodge of A. Y. Masons No. 147, located in Averasboro', Harnett county.
59. An act concerning the Governor's salary.

RESOLUTIONS

1. A resolution concerning the printing of the Treasurer's Report.
2. Resolution requesting our Senators and Representatives in Congress to secure an increase of the pay of soldiers.
3. Resolution in favor of John W. Flinn, Sheriff of Duplin County.
4. Resolution in relation to the arrest and imprisonment of Eli Swindell, of Beaufort county.
5. Resolution concerning the *per diem* and mileage of the members of the General Assembly.
6. Resolution in relation to sequestered and confiscated lands in North Carolina.
7. Resolution in favor of sick and wounded soldiers.
8. Resolution in favor of Joseph Cobb, Sheriff of Edgecombe county
9. Resolution in favor of Wm. Patterson, late Sheriff of Alamance county.
10. Resolution in favor of Council Wooten.
11. Resolution requiring certain Sheriffs to refund money into the Public Treasury.
12. Resolution in favor of Levi Dawson.
13. Resolution in favor of Henry H. Sandlin of Onslow county.
14. Resolution in favor of Drury King.
15. Resolution in favor of the Speakers, Clerks, and Doorkeepers.
16. Resolution in relation to impressments.
17. Resolution in favor of Charles Kelly.
18. Resolution relative to Wm. D. Wynne.
19. Resolutions instructing the Auditor of Public Accounts to inquire whether a better system of keeping the accounts of disbursing officers, and better checks on their accountability may not be introduced, and whether a better mode of cancelling the vouchers of the Public Treasury may not be adopted.

Lines

Suggested upon hearing of the death of Private Robert M. Bennett, of Co. K, 36 h N. C. Regiment, who was killed at Fort Caswell, Nov. 10th, 1863, by the accidental bursting of a gun.

BY HIS BROTHER.

A happy home now mourns the loss
Of one they held most dear;
The eye that spake a brother's love,
Now drops the falling tear:
The vacant place around the board
And by the cheerless hearth,
Remind us of the fleeting joys
And short lived things of earth;
His place a comrade at his gun,
Now fills instead of he;
No one responds unto his name
When called at reveille.
His noble voice and manly form,
No more we'll hear or see.
A brother's pride and parents' joy,
Is in eternity.
Though in deep grief we mourn the loss
Of brother and of son;
Help us oh Lord to be resigned,
And say thy will be done.

Camp on the Rapidan, Va., Dec. 4th, 1863.

GEN. BRAGG.—This officer passed through this city this morning *en route* for Newnan where his family is at present sojourning. To what duty this officer will now be assigned rumor sayeth not.

Gen. Bragg's appearance was pale and haggard. He is at best singularly saturnine of visage and is now peculiarly dark of expression. A tall, thin man, with eyes deeply sunken beneath the most lowering lashes, thin, blue lips, nervous and inconstant, scant gray hair and beard, a narrow forehead; there are few men in the South so striking in person. Gen. Bragg is said to be a chronic dyspeptic; he is certainly in ill health, and perhaps this is a reason for certain eccentricities of temper now and then manifested by him.

Atlanta Confederacy.

[ADVERTISEMENT.]

COLUMBUS COUNTY, N. C., Nov. 30th, 1863.

At a meeting of a portion of the citizens of Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus counties, held this day at Shiloh, for the purpose of devising means for providing corn for the use of the needy of the neighborhood, which was opened with prayer by Alex. Campbell, Esq., on motion B. M. Richardson, Esq., was called to the Chair, and Melton Campbell appointed Secretary.

On motion of D. D. Campbell, a committee of five was appointed to draft resolutions for the meeting.

The Chairman appointed the following gentlemen:—Messrs. D. D. Campbell, Owen Hobbs, J. S. Council, Jas. McNorton, and W. C. Barnes.

On motion of Mr. D. D. Campbell, the Chairman was added to the Committee.

Said Committee, appointed to draft resolutions, reported the following;

WHEREAS, It appears that, on account of the short crops generally made in this neighborhood, and the consequent scarcity, unless some provision is made whereby corn can be procured for the needy, there are many persons in this neighborhood, soldiers' families especially, who must suffer. Therefore be it

Resolved, That we, a portion of the citizens of Bladen, Brunswick and Columbus, assembled at Shiloh for the purpose of devising ways and means for the relief of the neighborhood, do appoint Mr. B. M. Richardson our agent, whose duty it shall be to buy corn and sell it again to those in want without charge, except cost and expense of transportation, with a reasonable compensation for his trouble.

B. M. RICHARDSON, Chairman.

M. CAMPBELL, Sec'y.

I, Owen Hobbs, one of the magistrates of the county of Columbus, do certify that the above proceedings are correct. OWEN HOBBS, J. P. [seal]

Dec. 14. $1-1t*

For the Journal.

At a meeting of the non-commissioned officers and privates of Company H, 1st N. C. Cavalry at Camp near Culpeper Court House, November 3d, 1863, for the purpose of giving public expression to the sentiment of the Company in regard to the death of their former Captain and late lamented Colonel Thos. Ruffin, the following preamble and resolutions were unanimously adopted:

WHEREAS, Recognizing in the death of Col. Thos. Ruffin but the dispensation of that Divine Power without whose knowledge "no sparrow falls to the ground;" yet with all due reverence to the Ruler of all we claim as ours the melancholy duty and mournful sight to pay our last tribute at the shrine of departed worth.

Resolved, That in the death of Col. Ruffin the Confederacy has lost a fine and able defender, North Carolina one of her brightest ornaments, and his regiment a gallant and fearless leader.

Resolved 2d, That in his death, though in its manner reflecting honor both on us and him, we behold with the greatest regret the sundering of those ties which have so long bound him to us a arm friend and respected officer.

Resolved 3d, That while memory last we will still cherish as sacred the recollection of him who by his invaluable courtesy and kindness no less than by his firmness and bravery won our admiration and commanded our respect.

Resolved 4th, That in his last words, "follow me," we but still more clearly recognize the spirit of the hero who sets a noble example at the loss of his life.

Resolved 5th, That to his bereaved family, thus suddenly, by the misfortune of war, deprived of an affectionate son and brother, we tender our heartfelt sympathies.

Resolved 6th, That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of the deceased; also to the Richmond Sentinel, Raleigh State Journal, Wilmington Journal, Biblical Recorder and Raleigh Christian Advocate, with a request to publish.

SAM'L W. STANLY,
J. W. BIDDLE,
J. H. WIGGS, } Committee.

BENJ. C. CROOM, Sec'y.

HEADQUARTERS 1st N. C. TROOPS,
December 3d, 1863.

Gentlemen: Below you will find a list of casualties of the 1st N. C. Troops in the fight near "Germanna Ford" on the 27th November, which you will please publish for the information of all concerned. Our division (Johnson's) was the only one actually engaged. We have been expecting a "big" fight here for some time, but at this late Meade has withdrawn all his forces to the North side of the Rapidan. After crossing the whole of his army to the South side, and having them drawn up in battle array for four days, he dared not face the brave veterans of General Lee, and followed the example of his predecessors by withdrawing from our front under cover of night. When or where he will attempt to make another forward movement it is impossible to say, but let him come when or where he will find us ready to assist him in a *retrogade* movement. I do not know the amount of losses sustained by the enemy, but know their casualties to have been much heavier than ours—judging from their dead in our front, which was more than two to one, besides loosing heavily in prisoners.

Very respectfully,
your obedient servant,
THOMAS H. W. McINTIRE,
Acting Adj't 1st N. C. T.

List of Casualties.

Field and Staff—Killed—none.
Wounded—Lieut. Col. H. A. Brown, slightly on hand.
Co. A—Killed—none.
Wounded—Sergt. R. Johnson, Privates A. Wyrick and George D. Lane.
Co. B—Killed—Corp'l S. M. Willborne.
Wounded—Sergt. D. C. Woodreogh, Sergt. P. C. McCall, Private J. M. Mitchell. L. L. Witherspoon, W. E. Conner, J. P. Shaw, Jno. Roberson, J. M. Brown, Color Serg't.
Co. C—Killed—none.
Wounded—Private J. H. Brinson, W. R. Brinson, J. W. Wagstaff, H. H. Whitty.
Co. D—Killed—none.
Wounded—Corp'l S. A. McCall, Privates H. Cates, H. Hines, Jas McCall, J. Knipe, T. Man. J. F. Summit.
Co. K—Killed—S. Albright.
Wounded—Sergt. B. Summersette, Privates B. Williams, M. Lay, J. G. Clapp
Co. F—Killed—Private D. M. Manning.
Wounded—N. B. Gatlin.
Co. G—Killed—J. G. Fish.
Wounded—Privates W. J. Saoller, J. W. Collins, D. P. Collins, B. G. Upchurch, J. Lawrence, B. A. Godwin.
Co. H—Killed—None.
Wounded—Corp'l J. S. Mobly, Privates E. Harris, J. H. Murray, J. F. Jones, L. Brown, W. Jolly.
Missing—Sergt. T. Pollard.
Co. I—Killed—Calvin Perry, mortally wounded, G. W. Baily, since dead.
Wounded—Corp'ls C. W. Upchurch, J. H. Young, Privates J. W. Wall, H. L. King, J. Devlin, S. G. Jordan.
Co. K—Killed—none.
Wounded—Sergt. P. Dupree, Corp'l Winters, Privates W. Shaw.

RECAPITULATION.

Killed	9
Wounded	51
Missing	1
	57

AN UNPLEASANT REMINISCENCE.—A recent number of the Memphis *Bulletin* contained the following:

The editor of the Chattsnooga *Rebel* says there's a Divinity that shapes our ends. We guess the divinity that shapes his end will be a hemped one.

To which, the *Rebel* replies by recalling the following somewhat unpleasant reminiscence:

We had rather go up at the end of a rope in the cause we are now advocating, than go off at the end of a cowhide, as the traitorous editor of the *Bulletin* did from Wheeling, Va., a few years ago. Don't you recollect Bingham, who applied the lash so vigorously and your cowardly nature would not allow you to resent the infliction?

Quoth Meade to Lee
"Can you tell me,
In the plainest sort of writing—
When people will
Get all their fill
Of this 'big job,' of fighting."

Quoth Lee to Meade,
"Why, yes indeed—
I'll tell you in a minute;—
Whon speculators
And legislators
Are made to enter in it!"

From the Raleigh Progress.

North Carolina Artillery Troops.

The following Heavy Artillery Companies have been organized into the 40th Regiment North Carolina Troops:

Captain A. W. Ezell, Lenoir, Co. A.
Captain W. H. Tripp, Beaufort, Co. B.
Captain J. E. Leggett, Beaufort, Co. C.
Captain James S. Lane, Craven, Co. D.
Captain M. H. McBryde, Robeson, Co. E.
Captain Jno. C. Robertson, Greene, Co. F.
Captain Wm. A. Holland, Lenoir, Co. G.
Captain Calvin Barnes, New Hanover, Co. H.
Captain C. C. Whitehurst, Beaufort, Co. I.
Captain George Tait, Bladen, Co. K.

The Governor has commissioned the following Field Officers to this Regiment:

John J. Hedrick, of New Hanover, Colonel; Geo. Tait, of Bladen, Lieutenant Colonel; William A. Holland of Lenoir, Major.

Colonel Hedrick entered service in April, 1861, as Captain of the Cape Fear Light Artillery, and was recently promoted to Colonel in the Provisional Army of the Confederate States.

Lt. Col. Tait entered service as Captain of the Bladen Guards, and on the organization of the 18th Regiment, (8th Volunteers,) he was promoted to Major.—He resigned as Major in January, 1862, returned home and raised a company of artillery, which he has commanded till the present time.

Major William A. Holland is a graduate of the University of the State and a young officer of much promise.

The following Light Artillery Companies have been organized into a Battalion and will be known as the 13th Battalion North Carolina Troops:

Captain L. H. Webb, Richmond, Co. A.
Captain Joseph B. Starr, Cumberland, Co. B.
Captain James D. Cumming, New Hanover, Co. C.
Captain Zach T. Adams, Beaufort, Co. D.
Captain Henry Dickson, Orange, Co. E.
Captain John R. Potts, Craven, Co. E.

The Governor has appointed Captain Joseph B. Starr, of Cumberland, Lieutenant Colonel of this Battalion.

Col. Starr entered service as Captain in that splendid company, the Lafayette Light Infantry, in the old Bethel Regiment, and upon the promotion of Lieutenant-Colonel Lane to the Colonelcy of the 28th Regiment, he was made Lieutenant-Colonel. He served with the regiment till it was disbanded in Nov. 1861, when he returned home and raised a company of Light Artillery, which he has commanded till this date. He is universally esteemed a good officer, and in every way worthy of promotion.

North Carolina has three regiments of Artillery, viz: the 10th, Col. S. D. Pool; the 36th, Col. William Lamb; the 40th, Col. Hedrick, and the following Artillery Battalions: 1st Battalion, Major A. McRae; 3d Battalion, Major John W. Moore; 10th Battalion, Major W. S. Young, and the 13th Battalion, Lieutenant-Colonel J. B. Starr.

ARTILLERY LOSS IN THE LATE BATTLES.—P. W. A. states that our loss of artillery in the late battles amounted to just 38 pieces, namely: Ferguson's Battery, 4 guns; Howell's, 2; McCant's 2; Dent's, 5; Scott's 3; Yates', 3; Faber's, 3; Garity's, 1; Oliver's, 1; Anderson's, 1; Slocumb's, 6; Cobb's, 4; Harris', 2; Marriburg's, 4. Two siege pieces were burnt at Chickamauga Station. All are not equal to our captures at the battles of Chickamauga.

NORTH CAROLINA.—The Raleigh Standard appeals to the "Conservatives" to rally at the polls and unite against the "Destructives," and adds that there is no chance for peace until the original Secessionists are hurled from power. In alluding to the recent defeat of the Democrats in Ohio and Pennsylvania, the Standard says the last ray of hope for the South from the North has departed—that the prospects of peace are more distant than ever—that the Southern people stand alone with the world against them, and that they had—better make peace with Providence or the North very soon.—*Rutland (Vermont) Herald, Nov. 6th, 1863.*

MAYOR'S OFFICE,
Wilmington, N. C., Dec. 15th, 1863.

DR. THOS. R. MICKS, Surgeon in Charge:

DEAR SIR: I herewith send you herewith One Thousand and Forty-Five Dollars, placed in my hands by Mr. Harry Macarthy, for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers. Please receive it and make such use or disposition of it as in your judgment may best promote the comfort and welfare of those for whom it was in tended, and oblige,

Very respectfully, your ob't serv't,
O. G. PARSLEY, Mayor.

GENERAL HOSPITAL No. 4,
WILMINGTON, N. C.,
Dec. 15th, 1863.

HON. O. G. PARSLEY, Mayor—

Dear Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your note of this morning, accompanying one thousand and forty five dollars, (Mr Harry macarthy's donation,) which you have so kindly placed at my disposal.

In the name of the sick and wounded soldiers now occupying the Hospitals in this city, permit me, through you, to return their heartfelt thanks to Mr. Macarthy, and to assure him that his kindness will ever be remembered and truly appreciated. As their agent, I will promise that my earnest endeavour shall be to apply the gift in such manner as will best accomplish the end designed.

I am, very respectfully,
Your obd't serv't,
THOS. R. MICKS,
Surgeon in Charge.

DIED.

On Stones Bay, Onslow county, N. C, on the 9th Dec., 1863, JOHN T. WHITEHURST, Esq., aged 36 years, 3 months and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Confederate States

The necessity for legislative action, arising out of the important events that have marked the interval since your adjournment, and my desire to have the aid of your counsel on other matters of grave public interest, render your presence at this time more than ordinarily welcome. Indeed, but for serious obstacles to convoking you in extraordinary session, and the necessity for my own temporary absence from the seat of government, I would have invited you to an earlier meeting than that fixed at the date of your adjournment.

Grave reverses befell our arms soon after your departure from Richmond. Early in July our strongholds at Vicksburg and Port Hudson, together with their entire garrisons, capitulated to the combined land and naval forces of the enemy. The important interior position of Jackson next fell into their temporary possession. Our unsuccessful assault on the post at Helena was followed at a later period by the invasion of Arkansas; and the retreat of our army from Little Rock gave to the enemy the control of the important valley in which it is situated.

The resolute spirit of the people soon rose superior to the temporary despondency naturally resulting from these reverses. The gallant troops, so ably commanded in the States beyond the Mississippi, inflicted repeated defeats on the invading armies in Louisiana and on the coast of Texas. Detachments of troops and active bodies of partizans, kept up so effective a war on the Mississippi river as practically to destroy its value as an avenue of commerce.

The determined and successful defence of Charleston against the joint land and naval operations of the enemy afforded an inspiring example of our ability to repel the attacks of the iron-clad fleet on which they chiefly rely, while on the northern frontier our success was still more marked.

[illegible]

by its acceptance. It is true that the instructions of the neutral powers informed their agents that it was "essential under present circumstances that they should act with great caution in order to avoid raising the question of the recognition of the new Confederation," and that the understanding on the subject did not assume for that reason the shape of a formal convention. But it was not deemed just by us to decline the arrangement on this ground, as little more than ninety days had then elapsed since the arrival of our commissioners in Europe, and neutral nations were fairly entitled to a reasonable delay in acting on a subject of so much importance, and which, from their point of view, presented difficulties that we, perhaps, did not fully appreciate. Certain it is that the action of this government on the occasion and its faithful performance of its own engagements have been such as to entitle it to expect on the part of those who sought in their own interests a mutual understanding, the most scrupulous adherence to their own promises. I feel constrained to inform you that in this expectation we have been disappointed, and that not only have the governments which entered into these arrangements yielded to the prohibition against commerce with us, which has been dictated by the United States in defiance of the law of nations, but that this concession of their neutral rights to our detriment has on more than one occasion been claimed in intercourse with our enemies, as an evidence of friendly feeling towards them. A few extracts from the correspondence of Her Majesty's Chief Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs will suffice to show marked encouragement to the United States to persevere in its paper blockade, and unmistakable intimations that Her Majesty's Government would not contest its validity.

On the 21st May, 1861, Earl Russell pointed out to the United States Minister in London, that "the blockade might no doubt be made effective, considering the small number of harbors on the southern coast, even though the extent of 3,000 miles were comprehended in terms of that blockade."

On the 14th January, 1862, Her Majesty's Minister in Washington, communicated to his government, that in extenuation of the barbarous attempt to destroy the port of Charleston by sinking a stone fleet in the harbor, Mr. Seward had explained "that the government of the United States had, last spring, with a navy very little prepared for so extensive an operation, undertaken to blockade upwards of 3,000 miles of coast. The Secretary of the Navy had reported that he could stop up the "large holes" by means of his ships, but that he could not stop up the "small creeks." It had been found necessary, therefore, to close some of the numerous small inlets by sinking vessels in the channel."

On the 6th May, 1862, so far from claiming the right of British subjects as neutrals to trade with us as belligerents and to disregard the blockade on the ground of this explicit confession by our enemy of his inability to render it effective, Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs claimed credit with the United States for friendly action in respecting it. His Lordship stated that "the United States Government, on the allegation of a rebellion pervading from nine to eleven States of the Union, have now, for more than twelve months, endeavored to maintain a blockade of three thousand miles of coast. This blockade, kept up irregularly, but when enforced, enforced severely, has seriously injured the trade and manufactures of the United Kingdom. Thousands are now obliged to resort to the poor rates for subsistence owing to this blockade. Yet Her Majesty's Government have never sought to take advantage of the obvious imperfections of this blockade, in order to declare it ineffective. They have, to the loss and detriment of the British nation, scrupulously observed the duties of Great Britain towards a friendly State."

Again, on the 22d September, 1862, the same noble Earl asserted that the United States were "very far indeed" from being in a condition to ask other nations to assume that every port of the coasts of the so-styled Confederate States is effectively blockaded."

When, in view of these facts; of the obligation of the British nation to adhere to the pledge made by their government at Paris, in 1856, and renewed to this Confederacy in 1861; and of these repeated and explicit avowals of the imperfection, irregularity and inefficiency of the pretended blockade of our coast, I directed our Commissioner at London, to call upon the British Government to redeem its promise and to withhold its moral aid and sanction from the flagrant violation of public law committed by our enemies, we were informed that Her Majesty's Government could not regard the blockade of the southern ports as having been otherwise than "practically effective," in February, 1862, and that "the manner in which it has since been enforced gives to neutral governments no excuse for asserting that the blockade has not been efficiently maintained." We were further informed, when we insisted that by the terms of our agreement, no blockade was to be considered effective unless "sufficient really to prevent access to our coast," "that the declaration of Paris, was in truth, directed against blockades not sustained by any actual force, or sustained by a notoriously inadequate force, such as the occasional appearance of a man-of-war in the offing or the like."

It was impossible that this mode of construing an agreement so as to make its terms mean almost the reverse of what they plainly conveyed, could be considered otherwise than as a notification of the British Government of its refusal to remain bound by its agreement, or longer to respect those articles of the declaration of Paris, which had been repeatedly denounced by British statesmen, and had been characterized by Earl Russell, as "very imprudent" and "most unsatisfactory."

If any doubt remained of the motives by which the British Ministry have been actuated in their conduct, it would be completely dissipated by the distinct avowals and explanations contained in the published speech recently made by Her Majesty's Secretary for Foreign Affairs. In commenting on the remonstrances of this government against the countenance given to an effective blockade, the following language is used: "It is said we have, contrary to the declaration of Paris, contrary to the international law, permitted the blockade of 3,000 miles of American coast. It is quite true we did so, and the presumable cause of complaint is quite true, that although the blockade is kept up by a sufficient number of ships, yet these ships were sent into the United States navy in a hurry, and are ill fitted for the purpose and did not keep up so completely and effectively as was required, an effective blockade."

This unequivocal confession of violation, both of agreement with us and of international law is defended on grounds, the validity of which we submit with confidence to the candid judgment of mankind.

These grounds are thus stated: "Still looking at the law of nations it was a blockade, we, as a great belligerent power in former times, should have acknowledged. We, ourselves had a blockade of upwards of 2,000 miles, and it did seem to me that we were bound in justice to the Federal States of America to acknowledge that blockade. But there was another reason which weighed with me. Our people were suffering severely for the want of that material which was the main staff of their industry, and it was a question of self interest whether we should not break the blockade. But in my opinion the men of England would have been for ever infamous if, for the sake of their own interest, they had violated the law of nations and made war in conjunction with these slaveholding States of America against the Federal States."

In the second of these reasons our rights are not involved; although it may be permitted to observe that the conduct of governments has not heretofore to my knowledge been guided by the principle that it is infamous to assert their rights, whenever the invasion of those rights creates severe suffering among their people, and injuriously affects great interests. But the intimation that relations with these States would be discreditable because they are slaveholding, would probably have been omitted if the official personage who has propounded it to the world had remembered that these States were, when colonies, made slaveholding by the direct exercise of the power of Great Britain, whose dependencies they were, and whose interest in the slave trade were then supposed to require that her colonies should be made slaveholding.

But the other ground stated is of a very grave character. It asserts that a violation of the law of nations by Great Britain in 1807, when that government declared a paper blockade of 2,000 miles of coast, (on the ground that her action was retaliatory,) was a justification for a similar outrage on our rights by the United States in 1861, for which no retaliation can be suggested; and that Great Britain "is bound in justice to the Federal States," to make return for the wrong waged against her by the United States in the acceptance of her illegal blockade of 1807, by an acquiescence in the illegal blockade of 1861. The most alarming feature in this argument is its admission of a just claim on the part of the United States to require of Great Britain, during the war a disregard of the recognised principles of modern public law and of her own compacts, whenever any [illegible] the conduct of Great Britain, "in former times," can be cited as a precedent. It is not inconsistent with respect and admiration for the great people whose government [illegible] to give us this warning, to suggest that their history, like that of mankind in general, offers exceptional instances of indefensible conduct "in former times;" and we may well deny the morality of violating recent engagements through deference to the evil precedents of the past.

After defending, in the manner just stated, the course of the British Government on the subject of the blockade, Her Majesty's Foreign Secretary takes care to leave no doubt of the further purpose of the British government to prevent our purchases of vessels in Great Britain, while supplying our enemies with rifles and other munitions of war, and states his intention to apply to Parliament for the further aid of his designs. He gives to the United States the assurance that he will do in their favor not only "everything that the law of nations requires, everything that the present foreign enlistment act requires, but that he will ask the sanction of Parliament for "further measures that Her Majesty's ministers may still ask." This language is [illegible] an official exposition of the policy adopted by the British Government in relation to our affairs, that the duty imposed on me by the Constitution of giving you from time to time "information of the state of the Confederacy," would not have been performed if I had failed to place it distinctly before you.

I refer you for fuller details on this whole subject to the correspondence of the State Department which accompanies this message. The facts which I have briefly narrated are, I trust, sufficient to enable you to appreciate the true nature of the neutrality professed in this war. It is not in my power to apprise you to what extent the Government of France shares the views so unreservedly avowed by that of Great Britain, no published correspondence of the French Government on the subject having been received. No public protest nor opposition, however, has been made by His Imperial Majesty against the prohibition to trade with us, imposed on foreign citizens by the paper blockade of the United States, although I have reason to believe that an unsuccessful attempt was made on his part to secure the assent of the British Government to a course of action more consonant with the dictates of public law and with the demands of justice towards us.

The partiality of Her Majesty's Government in favor of our enemies has been further evinced in the marked difference of its conduct on the subject of the purchase of supplies by the two belligerents. This difference has been conspicuous since the very commencement of the war. As early as the 1st May, 1861, the British Minister in Washington was informed by the Secretary of State of the United States that he had sent agents to England, and that others would go to France to purchase arms, and this fact was communicated to the British Foreign Office, which interposed no objection. Yet in October of the same year, Earl Russell entertained the complaint of the United States Minister in London, that the Confederate States were importing contraband of war from the island of Nassau, directing inquiry into the matter and obtained a report from the authorities of the island denying the allegations which report was enclosed to Mr. Adams, and received by him as satisfactory evidence to dissipate "the suspicion naturally thrown upon the authorities of Nassau by that unwarrantable act." So, too, when the Confederate Government purchased in Great Britain, as a neutral country, (and with strict observance both of the law of nations and the municipal law of Great Britain,) vessels which were subsequently armed and commissioned as vessels of war, after they had been far removed from English waters, the British Government in violation of its own laws and in deference to the importunate demands of the United States, made an ineffectual attempt to seize one vessel, and did actually seize and detain another which touched at the island of Nassau, on her way to a Confederate port, and subjected her to an unfounded prosecution at the very time when cargoes of munitions of war were being openly shipped from British ports to New York, to be used in warfare against us. Even now the public journals bring intelligence that the British Government has ordered the seizure, in a British Port, of two vessels, on the suspicion that they may have been sold to this Government, and that they may be hereafter armed and equipped in our service, while British subjects are engaged in Ireland by tens of thousands to proceed to the United States for warfare against the Confederacy, in defiance both of the law of nations and of the express terms of the British statutes, and are transported in British ships, without an effort at concealment, to the ports of the United States, there to be armed with rifles imported from Great Britain and to be employed against our people in a war of conquest. No royal prerogative is invoked, no executive interference is interposed against this flagrant breach of municipal and international law, on the part of our enemies, while strained constructions are placed on existing statutes, new enactments proposed, and questionable expedients devised for precluding the possibility of purchase, by this Government, of vessels that are useless for belligerent purposes, unless hereafter armed and equipped outside of the neutral jurisdiction of Great Britain.

For nearly three years this Government has exercised unquestioned jurisdiction over many millions of willing and united people. It has met and defeated vast armies of invaders, who have in vain sought its subversion. Supported by the confidence and affection of its citizens, the Confederacy has lacked no element which distinguishes an independent nation, according to the principles of public law. Its legislative, executive and judicial departments, each in its sphere, have performed their appropriate functions with a regularity as undisturbed as in a time of profound peace, and the whole energies of the people have been developed in the organization of vast armies, while their rights and liberties have rested secure under the protection of the courts of justice. This Confederacy is either independent, or it is a dependency of the United States, for no other earthly power claims the right to govern it. Without one historic fact on which the pretension can rest, without one line or word of treaty or covenant, which can give color to title, the United States have asserted, and the British Government has chosen to concede, that these sovereign States are dependencies of the government which is administered at Washington. Great Britain has accordingly entertained with that government the closest and most intimate relations, while refusing on its demand, ordinary amicable intercourse with us, and has, under arrangements made with the other nations of Europe, not only denied our just claim of admission into the family of nations, but interposed a passive, though effectual bar, to the acknowledgment of our rights by other powers. So soon as it had become apparent, by the declarations of the British Ministers in the debates of the British Parliament in July last, that Her Majesty's Government was determined to persist indefinitely in a course of policy which under professions of neutrality, had become subservient to the designs of our enemy, I felt it my duty to recall the Commissioners formerly accredited to that court, and the correspondence on the subject is submitted to you.

It is due to you and to our country that this full statement should be made of the just grounds which exists for dissatisfaction with the conduct of the British Government. I am well aware that we are unfortunately without adequate remedy for the injustice under which we have suffered at the hand of a powerful nation, at a juncture when our entire resources are absorbed in the defence of our lives, liberties and independence, against an enemy possessed of greatly superior numbers and material resources. Claiming no favor, desiring no aid, conscious of our own ability to defend our own rights, against the utmost efforts of an infuriate foe, we had thought it not extravagant to expect that assistance would be withheld from our enemies, and that the conduct of Foreign nations would be marked by a genuine impartiality between the belligerents. It was not supposed that a professed neutrality would be so conducted as to justify the Foreign Secretary of the British nation, in explaining, in correspondence with our enemies, how "the impartial observance of neutral obligations by Her Majesty's Government has thus been exceedingly advantageous to the cause of the more powerful of the two contending parties." The British Government may deem this war a favorable occasion for establishing, by the temporary sacrifice of their neutral rights, a precedent which shall justify the future exercise of those extreme belligerent pretensions that their naval power renders so formidable. The opportunity for obtaining the tacit assent of European Governments to a line of conduct which ignores the obligations of the declaration of Paris, and treats that instrument rather as a theoretical exposition of principles than a binding agreement, may be considered by the British Ministry as justifying them in seeking a great advantage for their own country at the expense of ours. But we cannot permit, without protest, the assertion that international law or morals regard as "impartial neutrality" conduct avowed to be "exceedingly advantageous" to one of the belligerents.

I have stated that we are without adequate remedy against the injustice under which we suffer. There are but two measures that seem applicable to the present condition of our relations with neutral powers. One is, to imitate the wrong of which we complain, to retaliate by the declaration of a paper blockade of the coast of the United States, and to capture all neutral vessels trading with their ports that our cruisers can intercept on the high seas—This measure I cannot recommend. It is true that, in so doing, we should but follow the precedents set by Great Britain and France in the Berlin and Milan decrees, and the British orders in council at the beginning of the present century. But it must be remembered that we, ourselves, protested against those very measures, as signal violations of the law of nations, and declared the attempts to excuse them, on the ground of their being retaliatory, utterly insufficient. These blockades are now quoted by writers on public law as a standing reproach on the good name of the nations who were betrayed by temporary exasperation into wrong doing, and ought to be regarded rather as errors to be avoided, than as examples to be followed.

The other measure is not open to this objection. The second article of the declaration of Paris, which provides "that the neutral flag covers enemy's goods, with the exception of contraband of war," was a new concession by belligerents in favor of neutrals, and not simply the enunciation of an acknowledged pre-existing rule like the fourth article which referred to blockades. To this concession we bound ourselves by the convention with Great Britain and France, which took the shape of the resolutions adopted by your predecessors on the 13th August, 1861. The consideration tendered us for that concession has been withheld. We have, therefore, the undeniable right to refuse longer to remain bound by a compact which the other party refuses to fulfill. But we should not forget that war is but temporary, and that we desire that peace shall be permanent. The future policy of the Confederacy must ever be to uphold neutral rights to their full extent. The principles of the declaration of Paris commend themselves to our judgment as more just, more humane and more consonant with modern civilization than those belligerent pretensions which great naval powers have heretofore sought to introduce into the maritime code—To forego our undeniable right to the exercise of those pretensions is a policy higher, worthier of us and of our cause than to revoke our adhesion to principles that we approve. Let our hope for redress rest rather on a returning sense of justice, which cannot fail to awaken a great people to the consciousness, that the war in which we are engaged ought rather to be made a reason for forbearance of advantage, than an occasion for the unfriendly conduct of which we make just complaint.

The events of the last year have produced important changes in the condition of our southern neighbor. The occupation of the capital of Mexico by the French army, and the establishment of a provisional government, followed by a radical change in the constitution of the country, have excited lively interest. Although preferring our own government and institutions to those of other countries, we can have no disposition to contest the exercise by them of the same right of self-government which we assert for ourselves. If the Mexican people prefer a monarchy to a republic, it is our plain duty cheerfully to acquiesce in their decision, and to evince a sincere and friendly interest in their prosperity. If, however, the Mexicans prefer maintaining their former institutions we have no reason to apprehend any obstacle to the free exercise of their choice. The Emperor of the French has solemnly disclaimed any purpose to impose on Mexico a form of government not acceptable to the nation; and the eminent personage to whom the throne has been tendered, declines its acceptance, unless the offer be sanctioned by the suffrages of the people. In either event, therefore, we may confidently expect the continuance of those peaceful relations which have been maintained on the frontier, and even a large development of the commerce already existing to the mutual advantage of the two countries.

It has been found necessary since your adjournment to take action on the subject of certain foreign consuls within the Confederacy. The nature of this action and the reasons on which it was based are so fully exhibited in the correspondence of the State Department which is transmitted to you, that no additional comment is required.

In connection with this subject of our relations with foreign countries, it is deemed opportune to communicate my views in reference to the treaties made by the government of the United States at a date anterior to our separation, and which were consequently binding on us as well as on foreign powers when the separation took effect. It was partially with a view to entering into such arrangements as the change in our government had made necessary that we felt it our duty to send commissioners abroad, for the purpose of entering into the negotiations proper to fix the relative rights and obligations of the parties to those treaties. As this tender on our part has been declined; as foreign nations have refused us the benefit of the treaties to which we were parties, they certainly have ceased to be binding on us, and in my opinion, our relations with European nations are, therefore, now controlled exclusively by the general rules of the law of nations. It is proper to add that these remarks are intended to apply solely to treaty obligations towards foreign governments, and have no reference to rights of individuals.

FINANCES.

The state of the public finances is such as to demand your earliest and most earnest attention. I need hardly say that a prompt and efficacious remedy for the present condition of the currency is necessary to the successful performance of the functions of government. Fortunately, the resources of our country are so ample, and the spirit of our people so devoted to its cause that they are ready to make any necessary contribution. Relief is thus entirely within our reach if we have the wisdom to legislate in such manner as to render available the means at our disposal.

At the commencement of the war we were far from anticipating the magnitude and duration of the struggle in which we were engaged. The most sagacious foresight could not have predicted that the passions of the northern people would lead them blindly to the sacrifice of life, treasure and liberty in so vain a hope as that of subjugating thirteen independent States inhabited by many millions of people whose birthright of freedom is dearer to them than life. A long exemption from direct taxation by the general government had created an aversion to its raising revenue by any other means than by duties on imports, and it was supposed that these duties would be ample for current peace expenditure, while the means for conducting the war could be raised almost exclusively by the use of public credit.

The first action of the provisional Congress was therefore confined to passing a tariff law and to raising a sum of fifteen millions of dollars by loan, with a pledge of a small export duty on cotton to provide for the redemption of the debt.

At its second session war was declared to exist between the Confederacy and the United States, and provision was made for the issue of twenty millions of dollars in treasury notes, and for borrowing thirty millions of dollars on bonds. The tariff was revised, and preparatory measures taken to enable the Congress to levy internal taxation at its succeeding session. These laws were passed in May, and the States of Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Arkansas having joined the Confederacy, the Congress adjourned to meet in the city of Richmond in the following month of July.

Prior to the assembling of your predecessors in Richmond at their third session near the end of July, 1861, the President of the United States had developed in his message the purpose "to make the contest a short and a decisive one," and had called on Congress for 400,000 men and four hundred millions of dollars. The Congress had exceeded the Executive recommendation and had authorized the levy of half a million of volunteers, besides largely increasing the regular land and naval forces of the United States. The necessity thus first became urgent that a financial scheme should be devised on a basis sufficiently large for the vast proportions of the contest with which we were threatened. Knowing that the struggle, instead of being "short and decisive" would be indefinite in duration, and could only end when the United States should awaken from their delusion of conquest, a permanent system was required, fully adapted to the great exigencies before us.

The plan devised by Congress at that time was based on the theory of issuing treasury notes convertible at the pleasure of the holder into eight per cent. bonds, the interest of which was to be payable in coin, and it was correctly assumed that any tendency to depreciation that might arise from over issue of the currency would be checked by the constant exercise of the holder's right to fund the notes at a liberal interest payable in specie. This system depended for success on the continued ability of government to pay the interest in specie, and means were, therefore, provided for that purpose in the law authorizing the issues.—An internal tax termed a war tax was levied, the proceeds of which, together with the revenue from imports were deemed sufficient for the object designed. This scheme required for its operation that our commerce with foreign nations should not be suspended. It was not to be anticipated that such suspension would be permitted otherwise than by an effective blockade; and it was absurd to suppose that a blockade "sufficient really to prevent access" to our entire coast could be maintained.

We had the means, therefore, (if neutral nations had not combined to aid our enemies by the sanction of an illegal prohibition on their commerce,) to secure the receipt into the Treasury of coin sufficient to pay the interest on the bonds, and thus maintain the Treasury notes at rates nearly equal to par in specie. So long as the interest continued to be thus paid with the reserve of coin pre-existing in our country, experience sustained the expections of those who devised the system. Thus, on the first of the following December, coin had only reached a premium of about twenty per cent. although it had already become apparent that the commerce of the country was threatened with permanent suspension by reason of the conduct of neutral nations, and that the necessary result must be the exhaustion of our specie reserve. Wheat, in the beginning of the year, 1862, was selling at one dollar and thirty cents per bushel, not exceeding, therefore, its average price in times of peace; the other agricultural products of the country were at similar moderate rates, thus indicating that there was no excess of circulation, and that the rate of premium on specie was heightened by the exceptional causes which tended to its exhaustion without the possibility of renewing the supply.

This review of the policy of your predecessors is given in justice to them, and it exhibits the condition of the finances at the date when the permanent government was organized.

In the meantime the popular aversion to internal taxation by the general government had influenced the legislation of the several States, and in only three of them, South Carolina, Mississippi and Texas, were the taxes actually collected from the people. The quotas devolving upon the remaining States had been raised by the issue of bonds and State treasury notes, and the public debt of the country was thus actually increased instead of being diminished by the taxation imposed by Congress.

Neither at the first nor second session of the present Congress were means provided by taxation for maintaining the government, the legislation being confined to authorising further sales of bonds and issues of treasury notes. Although repeated efforts were made to frame a proper system of taxation, you were confronted with an obstacle which did not exist for your predecessors, and which created grave embarrassment in devising any scheme of taxation. About two-thirds of the entire taxable property of the Confederate States consist of lands and slaves. The general power of taxation vested in Congress by the provisional Constitution, (which was to be only temporary in its operation,) was not restricted by any other condition than that "all duties, imposts and excises should be uniform throughout the States of the Confederacy." But the permanent Constitution sanctioning the principle that taxation and representation ought to rest on the same basis, specially provides that "representatives and direct taxes shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers which shall be determined by adding to the whole number of free persons, including those bound to service for a term of years, and excluding Indians not taxed, three-fifths of all slaves."

It was further ordered that a census should be made within three years after the first meeting of the Congress, and that "no capitation or other direct tax shall be laid, unless in proportion to the census or enumeration hereinbefore directed to be taken."

It is plain that under these provisions, capitation and direct taxes must be levied in proportion to the census when made. It is also plain that the duty is imposed on Congress to provide for making a census prior to the 22d February, 1865. It may further be stated that, according to the received construction of the Constitution of the United States, (a construction acquiesced in for upwards of sixty years,) taxes on lands and slaves are direct taxes, and the conclusion seems necessarily to be that, in repeating, without modification, in our Constitution, this language of the Constitution of 1787, our convention intended to attach to it the meaning which had been sanctioned by long and uninterrupted acquiescence.

So long as there seemed to be a probability of being able to carry out these provisions of the Constitution in their entirety, and in conformity with the intentions of its authors, there was an obvious difficulty in framing any system of taxation. A law which should exempt from the burthen two thirds of the property of the country, would be as unfair to the owners of the remaining third, as it would be inadequate to meet the requirements of the public service.

The urgency of the need was such, however, that, after very great embarrassment, and more than three months of assiduous labor, you succeeded in framing the law of the 24th April, 1863, by which you sought to reach so far as was practicable, every resource of the country except the capital invested in real estate and slaves, and by means of an income tax and a tax in kind on the produce of the soil, as well as by licenses on business occupations and professions, to command resources sufficient for the wants of the country. But a very large proportion of these resources could only be made available at the close of the present and the commencement of the ensuing year, while the intervening exigencies permitted no delay. In this state of affairs, superinduced almost unavoidably by the fortune of the war in which we are engaged, the issues of treasury notes have been increased until the currency in circulation amounts to more than six hundred millions of dollars, or more than three fold the amount required by the business of the country.

I need not enlarge upon the evil effects of this condition of things. They are unfortunately but too apparent. In addition to the difficulty presented to the necessary operations of the government, and the efficient conduct of the war, the most deplorable of all its results is undoubtedly its corrupting influence on the morals of the people. The possession of the large amounts of treasury notes has naturally led to a desire for investment, and with a constantly increasing volume of currency, there has been an equally constant increasing of price in all objects of investment. This effect has stimulated purchase by the apparent certainty of profit, and a spirit of speculation has thus been fostered, which has so debasing an influence, and such ruinous consequences, that it is our duty to remove the cause, and no measures directed to that end, can be too prompt, or too stringent.

Reverting to the Constitutional provisions already cited, the question recurs whether it be possible to execute the duty of apportioning taxation in accordance with the census ordered to be made as a basis. So long as this appeared to be practicable, none can deny the propriety of your course in abstaining from the imposition of direct taxes till you could exercise the power in the precise mode pointed out by the terms of the fundamental law. But it is obvious that there are many duties imposed by the Constitution, which depend for their fulfilment on the undisturbed possession of the territory within which they are to be performed. The same instrument which orders a census to be made in all the States, imposes the duty on the Confederacy "to guarantee to every State a republican form of government." It enjoins on us "to protect each State from invasion," and while declaring that its great objects are purposes are "to establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, it confers the means and thereby imposes on us the paramount duty of effecting its intent, by "laying and collecting taxes, duties, imposts and excises, necessary to pay the debts, provide for the common defence, and carry on the government of the Confederate States."

None would pretend that the Constitution is violated because, by reason of the presence of hostile armies, we are unable to guarantee a republican form of government to those States or portions of States now temporarily held by the enemy, and as little justice would there be in imputing blame for the failure to make the census, when that failure is attributable to causes not foreseen by the authors of the constitution, and beyond our control. The general intent of our constitutional charter is unquestionably that the property of the country is to be taxed in order to raise revenue for the common defence, and the special mode provided for levying this tax is impracticable from unforeseen causes. It is, in my judgment, our primary duty to execute the general intent expressed by the terms of the instrument which we have sworn to obey, and we cannot excuse ourselves for the failure to fulfill this obligation on the ground that we are unable to perform it in the precise mode pointed out. Whenever it shall be possible to execute our duty in all its parts, we must do so in exact compliance with the whole letter and spirit of the Constitution. Until that period shall arrive, we must execute so much of it, as our condition renders practicable. Whenever the withdrawal of the enemy shall place it in our power to make a census and apportionment of direct taxes, any other mode of levying them, will be contrary to the will of the law giver, and incompatible with our obligation to obey that will; until that period, the alternative left is to obey the paramount precept, and to execute it according to the only other rule provided, which is to "make the tax uniform throughout the Confederate States."

The considerations just presented are greatly enforced by the reflection that any attempt to apportion taxes amongst States, some of which are wholly or partially in the occupation of hostile forces, would subvert the whole intention of the framers of the Constitution, and be productive of the most revolting injustice, instead of that just correlation between taxation and representation which it was their purpose to secure. With large portions of some of the States occupied by the enemy, what justice would there be in imposing on the remainder the whole amount of the taxation of the entire State in proportion to its representation? What else would this be in effect, than to increase the burthen of those who are the heaviest sufferers by the war, and to make our own inability to protect them from invasion, as we are required to do by the Constitution, the ground for adding to their losses by an attempted adherence to the letter, in violation of the spirit of that instrument? No such purpose could have been entertained, and no such result contemplated by the framers of the constitution. It may add weight to these considerations if we reflect, that although the Constitution provided that it should go into operation with a representation temporarily distributed among the States, it expressly ordains, after providing for a census within three years, that this temporary distribution of representative power is to endure "until *such* enumeration shall be made." Would any one argue that, because the census cannot be made within the fixed period, the government must, at the expiration of that period, perish for want of a representative body? In any aspect in which the subject can be viewed, I am led to the conclusion already announced, and which is understood to be in accordance with the vote taken in one or both Houses at your last session. I shall, therefore, until we are able to pursue the precise mode required by the Constitution, deem it my duty to approve any law levying the taxation which you are bound to impose for the defence of the country, in any other practicable mode which shall distribute the burthen uniformly and impartially on the whole property of the people.

In your former legislation you have sought to avoid the increase in the volume of notes in circulation, by offering inducements to voluntary funding. The measures adopted for that purpose have been but partially successful, and the evil has now reached such a magnitude as to permit no other remedy than the compulsory reduction of the currency to the amount required by the business of the country. This reduction should be accompanied by a pledge that under no stress of circumstances will that amount be exceeded. No possible mode of using the credit of the government can be so disastrous as one which disturbs the basis of all exchanges, renders impossible all calculations of future values, augments, in constantly increasing proportions the price of all commodities, and so depreciates all fixed wages, salaries, and incomes, as to render them inadequate to bare subsistence. If to these be added the still more fatal influence on the morals and character of the people, to which I have already adverted, I am persuaded you will concur in the conclusion that an inflexible adherence to a limitation of the currency at a fixed sum is an indispensable element of any system of finance now to be adopted.

The holders of the currency now outstanding can only be protected in the recovery of their just claims by substituting for their notes some other security. If the currency is not greatly and promptly reduced, the present scale of inflated prices will not only continue to exist, but by the very fact of the large amounts thus made requisite in the conduct of the war, those prices will reach rates still more extravagant, and the whole system will fall under its own weight, thus rendering the redemption of the debt impossible, and destroying its whole value in the hands of the holder. If, on the contrary, a funded debt, with interest secured by adequate taxation can be substituted for the outstanding currency, its entire amount will be made available to the holder, and the government will be in a condition enabling it, beyond the reach of any probable contingency, to prosecute the war to a successful issue. It is, therefore, demanded, as well by the interest of the creditor as of the country at large, that the evidences of the public debt now outstanding in the shape of treasury notes, be converted into bonds bearing adequate interest, with a provision for taxation sufficient to ensure punctual payment, and final redemption of the whole debt.

The report of the Secretary of the Treasury presents the outlines of a system which, in conjunction with existing legislation, is intended to secure the several objects of a reduction of the circulation within fixed reasonable limits; of providing for the future wants of the government; of furnishing security for the punctual payment of the interest and final extinction of the principal of the public debt; and of placing the whole business of the country on a basis as near a specie standard as is possible during the continuance of the war. I earnestly recommend it to your consideration, and that no delay be permitted to intervene before your action on this vital subject. I trust that it will be suffered to engross your attention until you shall have disposed of it in the manner best adapted to attain the important results which your country anticipates from your legislation.

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TELEGRAPHIC.

Reports of the Press Association.

Entered according to the Act of Congress, in the year 1863, by J. S. THRASHER, in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the Confederate States for the Northern District of Georgia.

LATER FROM LONGSTREET.

DALTON, Dec. 8th, 1863.

A gentleman just from Knoxville says the seige is certainly raised. The enemy, twenty-two thousand strong, appeared in front of that place. Longstreet withdrew, and was marching his troops into North Carolina.

FROM TENNESSEE.

BRISTOL, Dec. 9th, 1863.

Nothing definite from Longstreet to-day. Gittiner's brigade encountered the advance of Wilcox's corps, about two thousand strong, near Maynardsville, Tenn., on last Thursday, routing them completely, and capturing a number of prisoners, who state that Wilcox's command was composed of raw troops. Telegraph communication has been opened to Rogersville Junction.

BRISTOL, Dec. 10th, 1863.

Our last advices from the front are that Longstreet's forces were in line of battle at Rutlege, his rear guard skirmishing with the enemy, where pursuit had not been vigorous since our forces left Morristown. Our cavalry was skirmishing all day Monday with the advance of Wilcox's force on Clinch River. Capt. Everett's raiding party returned to Abingdon yesterday. He attacked the enemy at Mt. Sterling, Ky., and routed them, after a stubborn resistance, during which the Court House and Jail was burned. He captured a large number of fine horses, and a hundred thousand greenbacks. The enemy being heavily reinforced, he retreated rapidly through Pound Gap, closely pursued by twelve hundred cavalry, who are reported at Gladeville, Va.

LONGSTREET'S WHEREABOUTS.

DALTON, Dec. 1st, 1863.

Latest accounts received here represent Longstreet at Beans' Station, twenty miles beyond Knoxville, on the Cumberland Gap Road. The State Guard, it is reported, was driven in on yesterday. No particulars.

LONGSTREET CONTINUES TO FALL BACK.

BRISTOL, Dec. 11, 1863.

Longstreet is slowly falling back from Morristown, presenting a bold front to the enemy, who, since a sharp skirmish at Morristown, have never pressed him. Our last advices represent him at Watauga River, near Kingsport, as Cumberland Gap is no longer in his rear, no apprehensions of danger are felt for him. All hospitals along the Rail Road have been emptied to receive his wounded, about six hundred.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 9th, 1863.

The Yankees, between 3 and 4 o'clock, opened fire on the city and threw 8 shells. Moultrie and the James Island batteries returned the fire and silenced the enemy. Five buildings were struck, but no person injured. Only six shots have been fired at Sumter to-day; one missed. No casualties to day.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 10th, 1863.

The enemy shelled the city between 10 and 11 o'clock last night, and 3 and 4 this morning. Some 20 shells were thrown. No serious damage done. No one injured. Our batteries opened heavily upon the enemy during the shelling of the city. The firing between the batteries continues.

LATER FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 10th, 1863.

A constant fire has been kept up to-day, interrupting and driving working parties from forts Gregg and Wagner. The enemy replied occasionally. No firing of consequence on Sumter. No shelling of the city to-day.

LATEST FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 11th, 1863.

Twelve shells were thrown into the city last night, at intervals of three hours,—damage trifling. Our batteries replied. No firing on Sumter.

FROM CHARLESTON.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 11th, 1863.

The enemy again shelled the city at different intervals during the day. Some six buildings were struck, but no person injured. About 9 o'clock this morning Fort Sumter took fire, from cause unknown as yet, and communicated to some outer timber work on the Southwest angle. The wood work was burned and some ammunition destroyed. Several casualties occurred, but the particulars not yet received. The enemy's land batteries opened heavily on the Fort during the progress of the fire, which was replied to from Moultry and our batteries. Heavy firing was kept up all day, and ceased at dark. The damage to Sumter is not material.

THE CASUALTIES AT FORT SUMTER.

CHARLESTON, Dec. 12, 1863.

The casualties at Fort Sumter yesterday were 10 killed & 30 wounded. Among the killed are Capt. Frost, A. C. S.; Sergt. Swansen, S. C. Artillery. Capt. Gaillard's company of regulars lost three killed and two wounded. Lt. Col. Elliott was slightly wounded in the head by a piece of brick, but remained in command. J. C. Elliott, of the Signal corps, is among the severely wounded. No firing last night, and no more shelling of the city.

FROM RICHMOND.

RICHMOND, Dec. 9th, 1863.

At auction to-day bonds of the fifteen million loan coupons brought 182½ to 191, interest added; registered bonds, 150 and interest; eight per cent. bonds, due 1876, 111 and interest. The members of the tobacco trade held a meeting yesterday, and appointed a committee to investigate the subject of the removal of the French tobacco, and report the result to the authorities. This action is said to be based on developments not proper to be made public until the investigation is closed.

FROM MEMPHIS.

MOBILE, Dec. 12th, 1863.

A special telegram to the Advertiser and Register, dated Oxford, Miss., December 11th, says that the Memphis papers are ominously silent in regard to the recent raid of Gen. Lee. Their loss at Moscow was severe and underrated by us. Col. Hatch's house was burned, and himself badly wounded.

The late Northern dates are uninteresting.

CONFEDERATE CONGRESS.

RICHMOND, Dec. 9th, 1863.

The Senate evinced to day in spirit to make dignified inquiry into the accounts of the administration on the subjects of arbitrary impressments of provisions under order of the Commissary General, and the course of the Secretary of Treasury in the payment of interest on the Cotton Bonds were made subjects of resolutions of inquiry by Mr. Orr, and favorably considered by the Senate. Mr. Orr explained the resolutions by the array of strong facts on each point.

The organization of the trans-Mississippi Department was brought up by Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas, who presented resolutions to organize separate War and Treasury Departments beyond the river. The Committees of Finance and Military Affairs were respectively authorized to report.

The House went into committee of the whole on the President's Message. That portion pertaining to the finances and the report of the Secretary of the Treasury was referred to a special committee of one from each State. A resolution was introduced with the avowed intention of testing the sense of the House, instructing the committee to report a bill levying a tax on the value of real and personal property, which was adopted by yeas 43, nays 14—As this is contrary to the letter of the Constitution, doubts are expressed in private conversation if the Courts will sustain the collection.

Mr. Foote discharged a blunderbuss at the Administration in three proposed amendments to the resolution, referring that portion of the President's message relating to the army. He proposed that the committee be instructed to report a bill to increase the pay of the troops; second, to inquire into the President's charges of a want of valor on the part of a portion of the troops before Chattanooga; third, to inquire into the truth of the allegation that the Yankee prisoners are not supplied with proper food. He supported each resolution in a strong speech against the policy of the Administration and the acts of the President.

The Report of the Commissioner of the War tax estimates the receipts at one hundred millions, and complains of the defective working of the tax act, which materially embarrasses collections.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10th, 1863.

Congress had a perfect shower of projects of bills and resolutions of all kinds and subjects. No business transacted in either House, except the passage by the Senate of the bill to repeal the substitute law. Until members get off the nostrums which each seem to have brought, no regular work will be accomplished. In the Senate Mr. Johnson, of Arkansas introduced a bill to limit the term of office of members of the Cabinet to two years, when they might be re-eligible, but should be re-appointed and confirmed by the Senate. He supported the proposition at some length, stating that what the country now needs is a good government and good officers; that he believed the measure would command the respect of all, and the hearty support of some of the Secretaries. He had doubts about the constitutionality of the measure, but had consulted an able head who is discharging the duties of Quartermaster General and his appointment has been confirmed by the Senate.

The House was assailed with bills and resolutions upon substitute, currency, taxes, impressments, arbitrary seizures, and impressments by military authorities, frauds by Quartermasters and Commissaries, and to prohibit the issue of Treasury Notes after the first January. Most of these were appropriately referred, with no discussion. The House evincing a disposition to wade through the mass, and get to regular work.

YANKEE CONGRESS, &c.

RICHMOND, Dec. 10th, 1863.

The Baltimore Gazette of the 8th says the Yankee Congress met at Washington on Monday. In the Senate, Davis made an earnest opposition to the admission of Senators from West Virginia, contending that, constitutionally, there was no such State as West Virginia; therefore, there could be no Senators from such State. By a vote 35 to 5, the Senators were admitted to seats.

The House organized by the election of Schuyler Colfax as Speaker. On the first ballot he received 101 votes; Cox 42; Dawson 12; Mallory 10; all others 17—necessary to a choice, 92. The Speaker, on assuming the Chair, declared himself in favor of crushing out the rebellion by all the means within the power of the Government.

Lincoln's message was not delivered in either house. The message is said to be shorter than usual. Its most prominent feature refers to the re-union question, which, however, is only briefly alluded to, Lincoln intimating that the time had not yet come for its full discussion. He is said, in this matter, to take very conservative grounds.

Telegrams from East Tennessee are only confirmatory of Longstreet's retreat. A dispatch from Foster, 7th inst., A. M., says that Wilcox has been sent to attack the enemy's flank at Bean's Station.

Lincoln has issued a proclamation recommending the people to render special homage and gratitude to God for the dislodgment of the insurgent force in East Tennessee.

Latest quotation for Gold in New York, 151.

NEWS FROM THE UNITED STATES.

RICHMOND, Dec. 11th, 1863.

The New York Herald, of the 9th inst., says that the distinguishing feature in Lincoln's message will be his plan for the reclamation of the rebellious states. It is also reported that he will start from the comprehensive idea, that, under his emancipation proclamation, slavery is abolished in the designated states.

A Washington correspondent says it is understood that the conservative faction in Congress will urge a vigorous prosecution of the war, holding the republicans responsible for the manner in which it is carried on. The Wood faction will hold out against the war measures.

Gov. Seymour has issued a circular to the supervisors of the several towns in New York, urging the adoption of measures for raising their quota of troops by voluntary enlistments, to avoid the impending draft.

The message of Governor Bramlette to the Kentucky Legislature says that the defences of the State are in a better condition than at any time since the rebellion. He says it is conceded that negro slavery is not essential to the life of the State or nation, but the Union is.

Advices from the army of the Potomac represent the men preparing camps for winter quarters.

The London correspondent of the Herald alleges that the Confederate agents are abandoning all hope of inducing the British Government to release the rams sold them to the Admiralty.

Two thousand prisoners from Chattanooga passed through Indianapolis on the 7th, en route for Rock Island. Twelve hundred more were expected on the 8th. One hundred and thirty officers, mostly belonging to Breckinridge's command, also passed through to Johnson's Island.

The Commissioner of the ——, in his review, recommends a large increase of taxes, principally upon articles of luxury.

The representatives of the press in Washington propose to tender a complimentary dinner to Col Fox, the first newspaper editor ever elected as Speaker of the House.

The Secretary of War has issued an order removing all contrabands from Washington to the south Bank of the Potomac.

Hawkins, one of the parties implicated in the recent kidnapping case at Montreal, has been convicted. The trial of Giddings, on the same charge, has been set for the 17th inst.

Gold 150.

GEN. MORGAN.

RICHMOND, Dec. 12th, 1863.

The Enquirer learns that Gen. Morgan has crossed the Ohio river near Ashland, and will make his way to the Confederate lines. It is not known when he will visit Richmond.

LORD PALMERSTON, the English Prime Minister, entered his eightieth year on the 20th ult.

For the Journal.

MESSRS. EDITORS: There is an amendment to the scheme of Mr. Mordecai, of Charleston, in relation to the currency, which suggests itself to my mind, and I respectfully submit it for consideration through the columns of your able journal.

If the Government would authorize the issue of "*Bons*" from 10,000 decimally up to 100,000, bearing 5 per cent. interest, payable semi-annually, it would have the effect, First, of reducing the volume of the currency in withdrawing small bills to the extent of the issues, and thus cure a great evil and inconvenience. Second, it would facilitate exchanges of large sums of money from one part of the Confederacy to the other, and enable parties to send thousands by mail which it now undergoes the tedious, troublesome, expensive transfer by express. Instead of carrying two or three carpet bags to transfer a million of dollars from Wilmington to Charleston, it could be carried in a vest pocket.

3d. These "bons" or "good for 100,000," simple in form, bearing interest, would have a *duplex character*, they could be used at any moment as currency, and at the same time possess the character of a coupon paying bond, that is they would bear interest and serve as an investment for a longer or shorter period as the possessor chose or can afford to hold them. They would be sought after by capitalists and Banks because they are constantly fruit bearing, while at any moment they can be serviceable as currency. Provisions of law can be easily suggested by a wise legislator to make these issues the most acceptable to capitalists, and as a sure mode of reducing the volume of money that must be thrown into commerce would have a most happy effect. There are many other reasons in favor of this suggestion, but I will not take up your valuable space, satisfied that if it meets the eye of the committee engaged on this business in Congress, it will be adopted with all the necessary legal provisions to carry out the suggestion.

Yours respectfully,

REFUGEE.

MARRIED.

In this town, on the 10th inst., by Rev. A. Paul Repiton, Mr. JAMES W. HANEY, to Mrs. DEMERIUS BURRISS.

On Topsail Sound, New Hanover county, on the 1st inst., by Robt. C. Nixon, Esq., Mr. JOS. B. SHROTZ to Mrs. NANCY ANN JARRELL.

At the residence of the bride's father, in Isle of Wight county, Va., on the 26th ult., by Rev. W. C. Allen, Lieut. A. G. HAWKINS, of Co. H, 3d N. C. Cavalry, to Miss MOLLIE A, youngest daughter of Col. Josiah Thomas.

In Wilmington, on the 10th inst., at the residence of the bride, by Rev. T. J. Knapp, Mr. JOEL J. COLEMAN, to Mrs. NANCY BLANEY, of the above named place.

DIED.

At Hallsville, on the 2nd inst., in the 39th year of her age, ISABELLA, wife of Mr. Geo. M. Hall.

In Washington City, D. C., on the 23d November, 1863, Gen. W. J. COWAN, a native of Bladen county, N. C.